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Eruption of Vesuvius on 24 August A.D. 79 under the Reign of Titus by Pierre-Henri de Valenciennes (1813). Painting shows the artist’s vision of the ancient volcanic catastrophe that destroyed Pompeii and other towns around the Bay of Naples. The eruption was one of the most explosive in Europe during the past 3500 years. See page 411. [Courtesy of Musée des Augustins, 21 Rue de Metz, 31000 Toulouse, France]