



NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
OF THE LESVOS
PETRIFIED FOREST

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Lesvos Island
UNESCO
Global Geopark

The creation of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and the volcanoes of Lesvos

Read the text below to get to know the connection between the volcanoes of Lesvos and the creation of the Petrified Forest

The creation of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos is connected with the intense volcanic activity in the wider region of the northeastern Aegean about 21.5 to 16.5 million years ago. From the eruptions of the big volcanoes in the center of the island large quantities of lava were poured into the surface and incandescent lava burned everything on its way.

If we were present at that time and we could observe the evolution of volcanic activity in Lesvos, we would still see huge amounts of volcanic ash to be ejected from the craters of active volcanoes such as the volcano of Vatoussa. The ash reached places at large distances from the volcanoes. After the volcanic eruptions, heavy

rainfalls came that swept away the volcanic materials and created mudflats moving from east to west. The mudflats covered the rich forest on the west side of Lesvos and isolated it from external conditions. At the same time, hot solutions rich in silicon contributed in replacing the organic matter of forest trees with materials such as silicon.

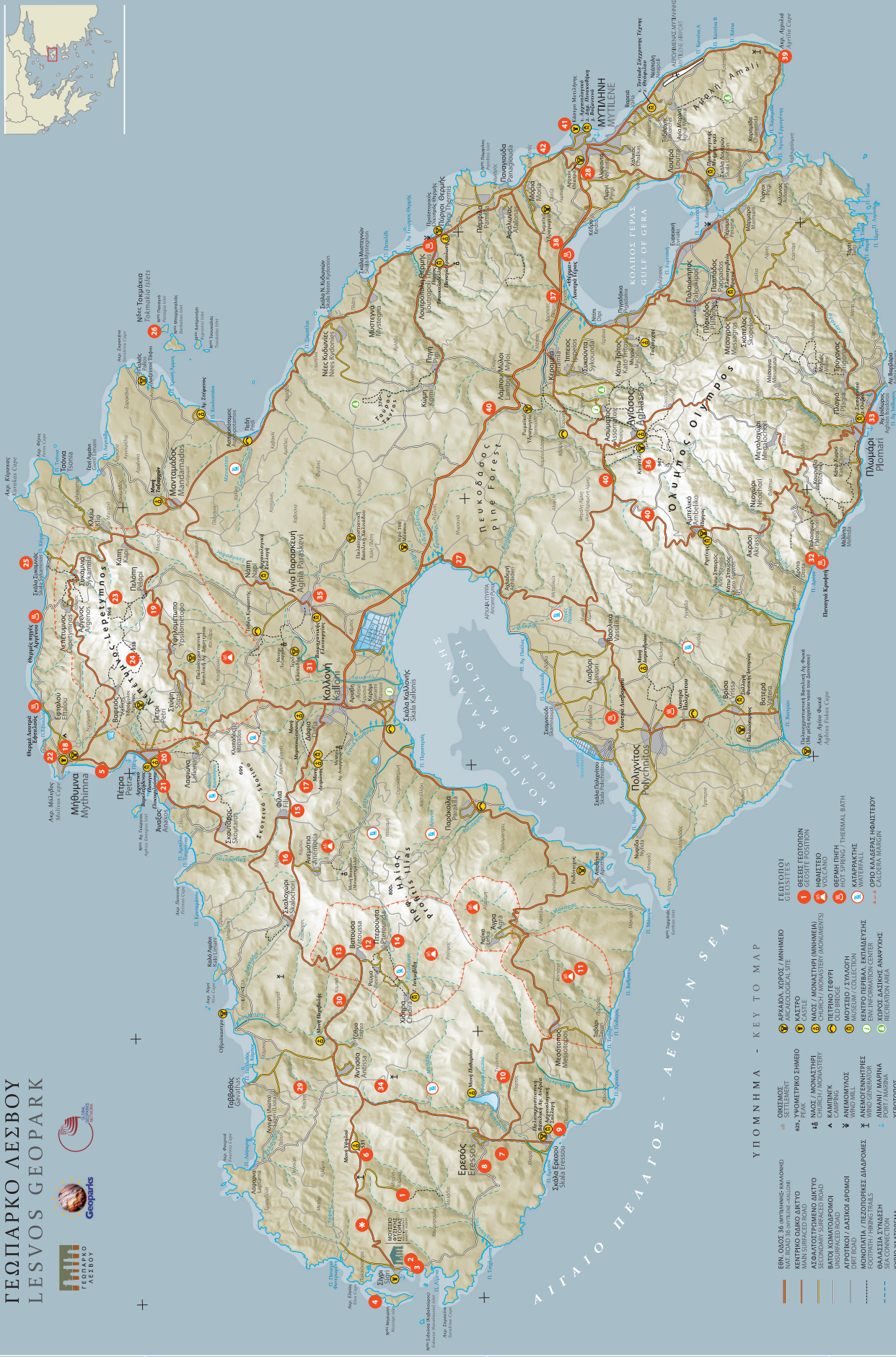
Let's test our knowledge in math....

1. Note on the map of the Lesvos Geopark the location of the volcano of Vatoussa and the locations of the four Parks of the Lesvos Petrified Forest (Bali Alonia, Sigri, Plaka, Nissiopi).
2. Calculate the distance from the Vatoussa Volcano to the Parks of the Lesvos Petrified Forest.
3. Convert the map scale to real distance.
4. What do you notice? Did the volcanic ash move a great distance after its exit from the volcano of Vatoussa?
5. What factors do you think have contributed to the transport of volcanic ash?


 ΓΕΡΠΑΡΚΟ
ΛΕΙΒΟΥ


 Geoparks


 GLOBAL
GEOPARKS
NETWORK



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