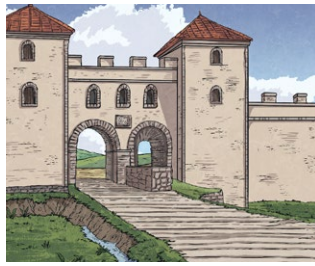




# Hadrian's Wall

Scotland was not part of Roman Britain. The Romans were too busy in other places to take over Scotland as well. In AD 122, Emperor Hadrian told his soldiers to build a wall to keep out the Picts who lived in Scotland. This also meant that the Romans could charge money to people who wanted to come in. The wall went from Wallsend on the east coast to Bowness on the west coast. Parts of Hadrian's Wall are still there today, and lots of people like going to see it.

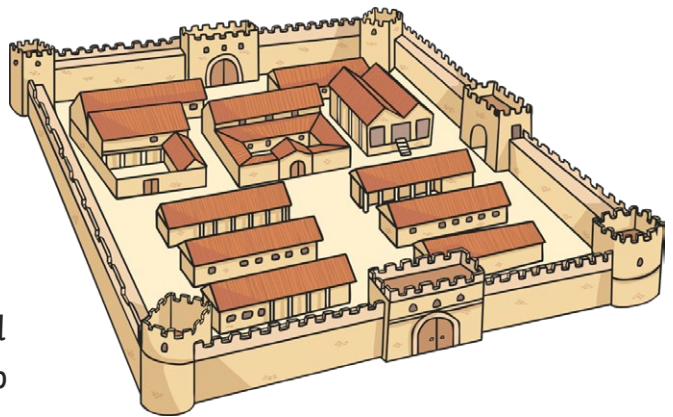


## Did You Know...?

In AD 140, the Romans added another wall further north. It's called the Antonine Wall.

Hadrian's Wall was built in stone. It was 117.5 kilometres long, up to 6 metres high and 3 metres wide. This meant it was wide enough for two soldiers to walk side-by-side.

It wasn't just a wall. There was a milecastle with twenty soldiers every 1.5km and a turret every 500 metres. Major forts were built along the wall every 8km. These had up to 1000 Roman soldiers in them. One of the forts was called Housesteads. It had a hospital, granary, barracks, workshop and toilets.



A Roman road called Stanegate was built. This made it easier to get food and other supplies to the soldiers based at Hadrian's Wall. Just like the Roman roads, the wall was built by the Roman soldiers. Hadrian's Wall was used for almost 250 years.



# Questions

1. Why did the Romans not conquer Scotland?

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2. In your own words, why did Hadrian build a wall?

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3. Does the wall run from east to west or from north to south?

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4. How long was the wall?

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5. Why was it made three metres wide?

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6. How many soldiers would you find in a milecastle?

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7. Why was Stanegate road built?

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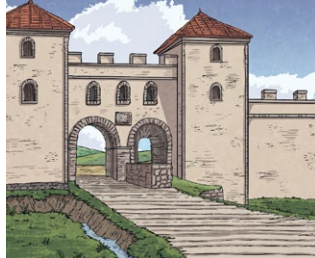


# Answers

1. Why did the Romans not conquer Scotland?  
*The Romans did not conquer Scotland because they were too busy in other places and much of the army was called back home to deal with other issues.*
2. In your own words, why did Hadrian build a wall?  
*Children's own responses, such as 'Hadrian built the wall so that the Picts, who lived in Scotland, could not get into England. It also meant that the Romans could charge taxes to people who wanted to come in'.*
3. Does the wall run from east to west or from north to south?  
*The wall runs from east to west.*
4. How long was the wall?  
*The wall was 117.5 kilometres long.*
5. Why was it made three metres wide?  
*It was made three metres wide so that it was wide enough for two soldiers to be able to walk side-by-side.*
6. How many soldiers would you find in a milecastle?  
*Twenty soldiers could be found in a milecastle.*
7. Why was Stanegate road built?  
*The Stanegate road was built to make it easier to get food and supplies to the soldiers based along the wall.*

# Hadrian's Wall

Scotland was not part of Roman Britain. Although the Romans won a big battle against the Caledonians, who had banded together as 'the Picts', in AD 84, Scotland never became part of the Roman empire because the Roman army was called back closer to home to deal with more pressing matters.



## Did You Know...?

In AD 140, the Romans added another wall further north. It's called the Antonine Wall.

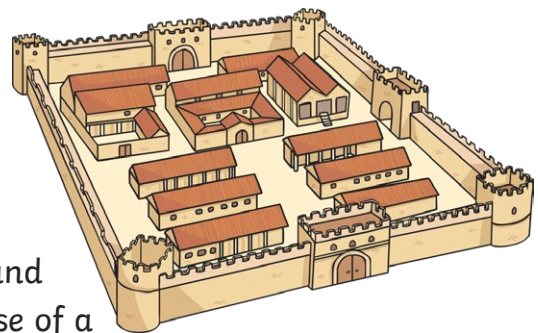
In AD 122, Emperor Hadrian ordered his soldiers to build a wall between Roman Britain and Scotland to defend the Roman-occupied land from frequent attacks by the Picts and to control who was entering and leaving Roman territory. This meant that the Romans could charge taxes to people who wanted to come in. Historians believe that the wall may have been covered in plaster and then white-washed, so that the shining surface would have reflected the sunlight and made it visible for miles around. This would show how powerful the Roman empire was.



Hadrian's Wall was built in stone. It was 117.5km long, up to 6m high and 3m wide. This meant that it was wide enough for two soldiers to walk side-by-side.

It wasn't just a wall. There was a milecastle guarded by soldiers that was built every 500m. Major forts were built along the wall every 8km. These could accommodate between 500 and 1000 Roman soldiers.

One of these forts was called Housesteads. It had a hospital, granary, workshop, barracks and toilets. Grain was kept dry in a store by the use of a hypocaust, similar to the system used in Roman baths.





# Hadrian's Wall

The wall ran from Wallsend on the east coast to Bowness on the west coast. You can still see parts of Hadrian's Wall today; it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in northern England.

A Roman road called the Stanegate was built to supply the soldiers based at Hadrian's Wall. Just like the Roman roads, the wall was designed by Roman engineers and built by the Roman soldiers. Hadrian's Wall was repaired, maintained, patrolled and guarded for almost 250 years.



## More to Think About

The wall was not that high in some places: people would have been able to climb up and get over it. What do you think Hadrian's purpose was in building the wall? A deterrent? A marker of Roman territory? A show of power? A way to control people's movements? Strategic positioning of troops? Discuss with a partner and explain your thinking.



# Questions

1. Who did the Romans fight against in Scotland in AD 84?

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2. In your own words, why did Hadrian build the wall?

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3. Historians believe the wall may have been whitewashed (painted white). Why did they do this?

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4. Does the wall run from east to west or from north to south?

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5. How long was the wall?

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6. How many soldiers would you find in a milecastle?

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7. Why was the Stanegate road built?

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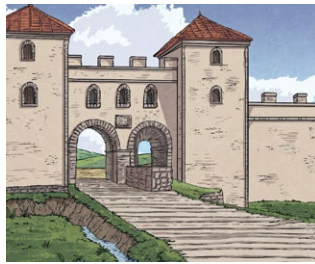
# Answers

1. Who did the Romans fight against in Scotland in AD 84?  
*The Romans fought against the Caledonians in Scotland in AD 84.*
2. In your own words, why did Hadrian build the wall?  
Children's own responses, such as '*Hadrian built the wall so that the Picts, who lived in Scotland, could not get into England. It also meant that the Romans could charge taxes to people who wanted to come in*'.
3. Historians believe the wall may have been whitewashed (painted white). Why did they do this?  
*It is thought that the wall was whitewashed to make it shiny so that it would reflect the sunlight and make it visible for miles around.*
4. Does the wall run from east to west or from north to south?  
*The wall runs from east to west.*
5. How long was the wall?  
*The wall was 117.5 kilometres long.*
6. How many soldiers would you find in a milecastle?  
*Twenty soldiers could be found in a milecastle.*
7. Why was the Stanegate road built?  
*The Stanegate road was built to make it easier to get food and supplies to the soldiers based along the wall.*

# Hadrian's Wall

During the Roman era, Scotland was known as Caledonia. Tribes from Caledonia tried to fight against the Romans who were trying to take their land.

In AD 84, different Caledonian tribes all joined together to form a fierce and feisty group that the Romans named 'the Picts'. They kept trying to raid the Romans' territory, so Emperor Hadrian came up with a plan to keep them out once and for all.



## Did You Know...?

In AD 140, the Romans added another wall further north. It's called the Antonine Wall.

Emperor Hadrian ordered a wall to be built right across the width of Britain to help the Romans defend their land. As an added bonus, it also meant that the Romans could charge taxes to people who wanted to come into their territory and they could have more control of people's comings and goings.

Three Roman legions (15,000 men) set to work building this huge wall, 117.5km (or 80 Roman miles) long. It ran from Wallsend on the east coast to Bowness on the west coast. Made out of stone, it was approximately 6m high and 3m wide, meaning that two soldiers could walk along guarding it side-by-side.

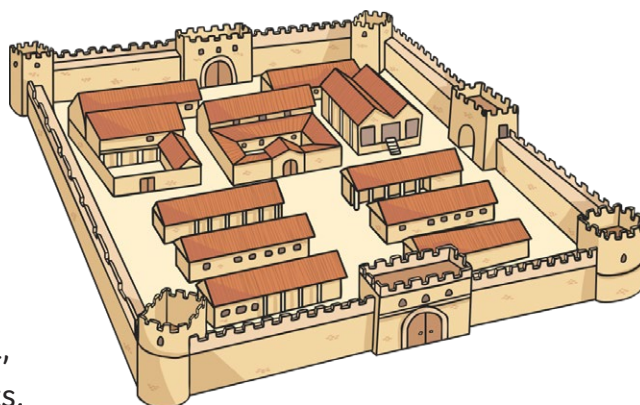






# Hadrian's Wall

As well as being a defence, the wall also had to be functional to look after the thousands of soldiers who were building and guarding it. Major forts were built every 8km. These accommodated between 500 and 1000 soldiers each. The biggest fort, called Housesteads, included a hospital, granary, workshop, barracks and toilets.



Smaller forts included barracks for the soldiers, a larger house for the commander and his family and a grain store. There would also be a bath house just outside the fort so that soldiers could keep clean. Over time, small villages and communities developed around the forts and were probably where the soldiers' families lived. These settlements would contain houses, shops, temples and taverns.

A Roman road called the Stanegate was built to supply the soldiers based at Hadrian's Wall. Just like the Roman roads, the wall was designed by Roman engineers and built by the Roman soldiers. Hadrian's Wall was repaired, maintained, patrolled and guarded for almost 250 years. You can still see parts of Hadrian's Wall today: it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in northern England.



# Questions

1. Who were described as fierce and feisty?

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2. Why did Emperor Hadrian need a plan?

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3. What was his plan?

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4. Give two added benefits of the wall for the Romans.

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5. Why were forts built along the wall?

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6. Describe what happened over time around the forts.

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7. Explain why you think it was important for two soldiers to be able to walk along the wall together.

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8. Why do you think Hadrian's Wall is still a popular tourist attraction?

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# Answers

1. Who were described as fierce and feisty?  
*The Picts were described as fierce and feisty.*
2. Why did Emperor Hadrian need a plan?  
*Emperor Hadrian needed a plan to stop the Picts from trying to raid the Romans' territory.*
3. What was his plan?  
*Emperor Hadrian's plan was to build a wall right across the width of Britain to help the Romans defend their land.*
4. Give two added benefits of the wall for the Romans.  
*The added bonuses were that the Romans could charge taxes to people who wanted to come into their territory and that they could have more control of people's comings and goings.*
5. Why were forts built along the wall?  
*Forts were built along the wall to accommodate and look after the soldiers building and guarding it.*
6. Describe what happened over time around the forts.  
*Over time, small villages and communities developed around the forts where the soldiers' families lived. These settlements would contain houses, shops, temples and taverns.*
7. Explain why you think it was important for two soldiers to be able to walk along the wall together.  
*I think it was important for two soldiers to be able to walk along the wall together so that they could work as a team and could be looking out across all directions. They would have a good view from the top of the wall and they would be able to see any possible threats.*
8. Why do you think Hadrian's Wall is still a popular tourist attraction?  
*I think Hadrian's Wall is still a popular tourist attraction because it is a huge part of the history of Britain and people want to learn more about it. People also want to find out what it would have been like to be a Roman soldier or someone living around there at the time.*