

Hadrian's Wall

Today I thought we could look at Hadrian's Wall. But what is Hadrian's Wall and where is it? For that matter who was Hadrian? Well, Hadrian's Wall was a defensive fortification on the edge of Roman Britain; on the edge of the Roman Empire. Begun in AD 122, during the rule of emperor Hadrian (ruled AD 117-138) it was the most heavily fortified border in the Roman Empire. The wall was built to separate the Romans from the barbarians. Initial construction took six years. Expansions were later made. At every 1/3 Roman mile there was a tower, and at every mile a fortlet containing a gate through the wall. Possibly there was a tower and one or two barrack blocks. Forts were built every seven miles. In addition to its role as a fortification it is thought the gates of the wall served as customs posts to allow trade and levy taxation. The actual wall lies in northern England. A significant amount of it can still be seen today. It runs from coast to coast.

Hadrian's Wall was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. English heritage have described it as 'The most important monument built by the Romans in Britain'. The wall is 80 Roman miles, which is 120km or 73 English miles. Part of it was 3 metres wide. Depending on the location its height varied from 2.4 to 3.5 metres. This does not include the walls ditches, forts or berms. The wall was built mainly by soldiers of the three Roman legions in Britain. It was manned by second line auxiliary troops. Its purpose was to control movement across the frontier and counter low-intensity threats. There was no intention of fighting the enemy from the top of the wall. The units based on the wall were trained and equipped to encounter the enemy in the open.

Hadrian's Wall was actually the first of two fortifications built across Great Britain. The second was the lesser known Antonine Wall. This was built by Hadrian's successor Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161). This wall stretched for 59km (37 miles) further north, in today's Scotland, between the Rivers Forth and Clyde. Within two decades the Antonine Wall was abandoned in favour of Hadrian's Wall, which continued in use until the end of the Roman rule in Britain (410). Hadrian's Wall was a remarkable achievement. It can be compared with the Great Wall of China.

Category: Places to Visit / Hadrian's Wall / History
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

EXERCISES

1. Hadrian's Wall: Think of three things you know about Hadrian's Wall? Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to visit Hadrian's Wall?

6. Hadrian's Wall: In pairs think things you know about Hadrian's Wall. Then add five things you know about the Romans in Britain. Write them below. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

Hadrian's Wall	The Romans in Britain
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's print and discuss: *Teachers* – print out some images (see links on page 8) of Hadrian's Wall then get the class to discuss them. What is the class conclusion?

8. Let's roleplay 1: Roman Empire Radio: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Roman Empire Radio* studio. We are in the year AD 135! Today's interview is about: *Hadrian's Wall*.

1	Emperor Hadrian	3	A woman villager
2	A barbarian	4	A Roman soldier

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

Hadrian's Wall – 30th August 2011

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Hadrian's Wall**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in Roman Britain. One of you is a Roman soldier who is based on the wall. The other is a barbarian on the other side of it. The barbarian wants to cross through the wall to trade. *5-minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the emperors.
- 2) When did the emperors rule from and to?
- 3) What happened in 1987?
- 4) How long is the first wall?
- 5) What is a berm?

Student B

- 1) Describe the wall.
- 2) Name the other walls.
- 3) How many Roman legions were in Britain?
- 4) What happened to the other wall in Scotland?
- 5) When was the first Roman wall built?

12. **Let's think!** Think of three advantages and three disadvantages of Hadrian's Wall in Britain during Roman times. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1	1
2	2
3	3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **Hadrian's Wall**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

14. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Hadrian's Wall**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Hadrian's Wall _____
- b) Emperor Hadrian _____
- c) The Romans _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What did the Romans do in Britain?
- 3) What famous buildings did the Romans build in Britain that are still standing today?
- 4) Can you name any Roman cities or town in Britain?
- 5) How did the Romans build their roads?
- 6) Would you like to have been a soldier posted on the wall?
- 7) Would you like to go on holiday to Britain and spend it walking across Hadrian's Wall or what is left of it?
- 8) Do you think it would have been difficult building the wall?
- 9) What three differences can you think of between life today and in Roman Britain?
- 10) Have you ever dressed up as a Roman?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you like to have lived in Roman Britain either as a Roman soldier or as a Britain? Explain.
- 3) Do you think life would have been hard in Britain in Roman times? Explain.
- 4) Why did the Romans come to Britain?
- 5) Why did Hadrian build the Wall?
- 6) Should they rebuild Hadrian's Wall?
- 7) Would you like to visit Hadrian's Wall? Why? Why not?
- 8) What three things do you remember best about the Romans?
- 9) Why was the Roman Empire so successful?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Roman Britain around Hadrian's Wall

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Living in Roman Britain around Hadrian's Wall
--

(The teacher can moderate the session)

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Hadrian's Wall

Today I thought we could look at Hadrian's Wall. But what is Hadrian's Wall and where is it? For that matter who was Hadrian? Well, Hadrian's Wall was a defensive (1)_____ on the edge of Roman Britain; on the edge of the Roman Empire. Begun in AD 122, during the rule of (2)_____ Hadrian (ruled AD 117-138) it was the most heavily fortified (3)_____ in the Roman Empire. The wall was built to separate the Romans from the (4)_____. Initial construction took six years. Expansions were later made. At every 1/3 Roman mile there was a tower, and at every mile a fortlet containing a gate through the wall. Possibly there was a (5)_____ and one or two barrack blocks. Forts were built every seven miles. In addition to its role as a fortification it is thought the (6)_____ of the wall served as customs posts to allow trade and levy taxation. The actual (7)_____ lies in northern England. A (8)_____ amount of it can still be seen today. It runs from coast to coast.

barbarians

tower

emperor

significant

wall

gates

fortification

border

Hadrian's Wall was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. English heritage have described it as 'The most important monument built by the Romans in Britain'. The wall is 80 Roman miles, which is 120km or 73 English miles. Part of it was 3 metres wide. Depending on the (1)_____ its height varied from 2.4 to 3.5 metres. This does not include the walls ditches, forts or (2)_____. The wall was built mainly by soldiers of the three Roman legions in Britain. It was manned by second line (3)_____ troops. Its purpose was to control movement across the (4)_____ and counter low-intensity (5)_____. There was no intention of fighting the (6)_____ from the top of the wall. The (7)_____ based on the wall were trained and equipped to encounter the enemy in the open. Hadrian's Wall was actually the first of two fortifications built across Great Britain. The second was the lesser known Antonine Wall. This was built by Hadrian's (8)_____ Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161). This wall stretched for 59km (37 miles) further north, in today's Scotland, between the Rivers Forth and Clyde.

enemy

units

auxiliary

successor

threats

berms

frontier

location

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Hadrian's Wall

Today I thought _____ Hadrian's Wall. But what is Hadrian's Wall and where is it? For _____ Hadrian? Well, Hadrian's Wall was a defensive fortification on the edge of Roman Britain; on the edge of the Roman Empire. Begun in AD 122, during the rule of emperor Hadrian (ruled AD 117-138) it was the most heavily fortified border in the Roman Empire. The wall was built to separate the Romans _____. Initial construction took six years. Expansions were later made. At every 1/3 Roman mile there was a tower, and at every mile a fortlet containing a gate _____. Possibly there was a tower and one or two barrack blocks. Forts were built every seven miles. In addition to its role as a fortification it is thought the gates of the wall served as customs posts to allow trade and levy taxation. The actual wall lies in northern England. A significant amount _____ seen today. It runs _____.

Hadrian's Wall was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. English heritage have described it as '_____ monument built by the Romans in Britain'. The wall is 80 Roman miles, which is 120km or 73 English miles. Part of it was 3 metres wide. Depending on the location its _____ 2.4 to 3.5 metres. This does not include the walls ditches, forts or berms. The wall was built mainly by soldiers of the three Roman legions in Britain. _____ second line auxiliary troops. Its purpose was to control movement across the frontier and counter low-intensity threats. There was no intention of _____ from the top of the wall. The units based on the wall were trained and equipped to encounter the enemy in the open.

Hadrian's Wall was actually the first of two fortifications built across Great Britain. The second _____ Antonine Wall. This was built by Hadrian's successor Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161). This wall stretched for 59km (37 miles) further north, _____, between the Rivers Forth and Clyde.

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Hadrian's Wall

Today I thought we (1)___ look at Hadrian's Wall. But (2)___ is Hadrian's Wall and where is it? For (3)___ matter who was Hadrian? Well, Hadrian's Wall was a defensive fortification on the edge of Roman Britain; on the edge of the Roman Empire. Begun in AD 122, during the rule of emperor Hadrian (ruled AD 117-138) it was the (4)___ heavily fortified border in the Roman Empire. The wall was built to separate the Romans from the barbarians. Initial construction took six years. Expansions were later made. At (5)___ 1/3 Roman mile (6)___ was a tower, and at every mile a fortlet containing a gate through the wall. Possibly there was a tower and one or two barrack blocks. Forts were built every seven miles. In addition to its role as a fortification it is thought the gates of the wall served as customs posts to allow trade and levy taxation. The actual wall lies in northern England. A significant amount of it can (7)___ be seen today. It runs (8)___ coast to coast.

there

most

could

every

from

that

what

still

Hadrian's Wall was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. English heritage have described (1)___ as 'The most important monument built by the Romans in Britain'. The wall is 80 Roman miles, which is 120km or 73 English miles. Part of it was 3 metres wide. Depending on the location its height varied from 2.4 to 3.5 metres. This does not include the walls ditches, forts (2)___ berms. The wall was built mainly (3)___ soldiers of the three Roman legions in Britain. It was manned by second line auxiliary troops. (4)___ purpose was to control movement across the frontier and counter low-intensity threats. There was no intention (5)___ fighting the enemy from the top of the wall. The units based (6)___ the wall were trained and equipped to encounter the enemy in the open. Hadrian's Wall was actually (7)___ first of two fortifications built across Great Britain. The second was the lesser known Antonine Wall. This was built by Hadrian's successor Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161). This wall stretched for 59km (37 miles) further north, (8)___ today's Scotland, between the Rivers Forth and Clyde.

or

the

of

it

its

on

in

by



SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:

Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

1	significant	11	construction
2	important	12	initial
3	monument	13	through
4	fortification	14	addition
5	thought	15	Roman legions
6	defensive	16	auxiliary troops
7	barbarians	17	successor
8	emperor	18	remarkable
9	separate	19	achievement
10	intensity	20	decades

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hadrian%27s_Wall_map.svg

http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?adv_prop=image&fr=chrgreentree_ff&va=hadrian%27s+wall

<http://www.hadrians-wall.org/>

http://www.hadrians.com/rome/romans/emperors/hadrians_wall.html

http://www.english-lakes.com/hadrians_wall.htm

www.newsflashenglish.com

Copyright D. J. Robinson 2011-2015 (B1)

www.newsflashenglish.com