

Romans

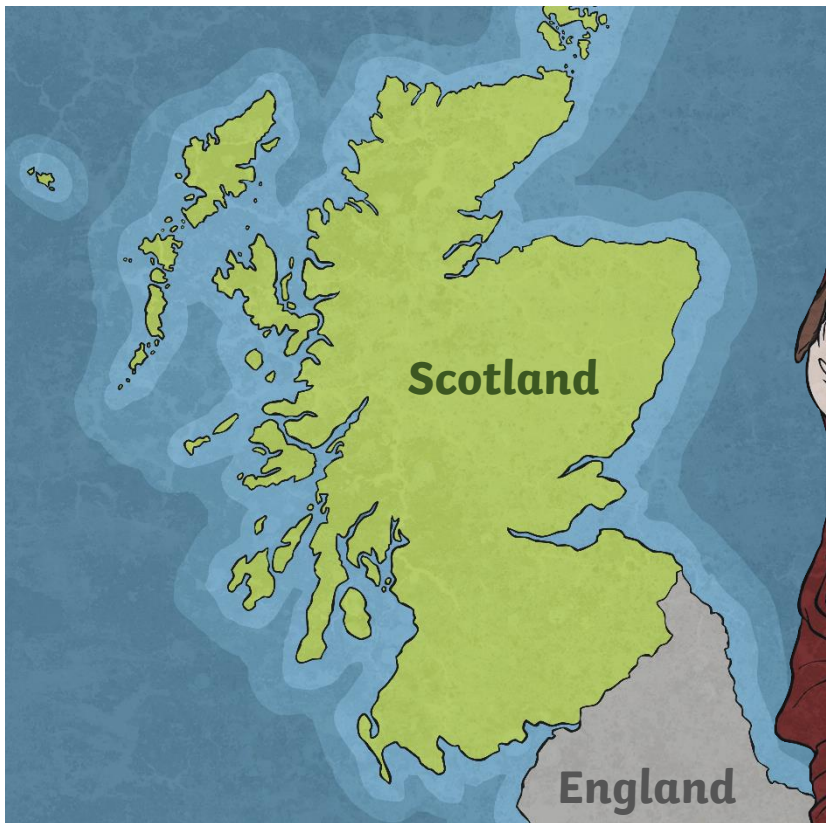
Hadrian's Wall



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The Picts

Scotland was known as Caledonia during the Roman era and many Caledonian tribes fought battles against the Romans who tried to take their land.



The Picts



In AD 84, the different tribes all banded together to form a group that the Romans called the 'Picts' after the Romans defeated them in a big battle. However, the Romans did not go on to take Scotland as the Roman army was called back home to deal with other issues. This meant that Scotland never became a part of the Roman empire.

According to the Romans, the Picts were a feisty, formidable force who kept raiding their territory in Britain. The Romans wanted a way to separate their land from the Picts'.

Hadrian's Wall

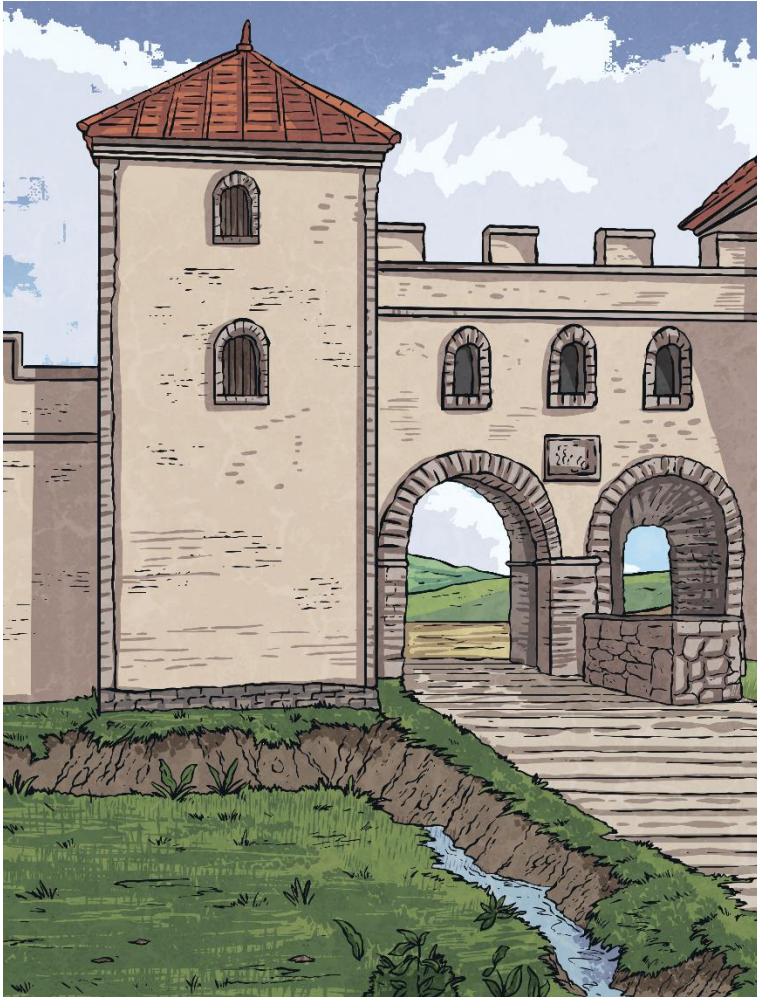


The solution for dealing with frequent attacks from the Picts came in the form of a great wall.

The Roman Emperor Hadrian is best known for building this wall across northern Britain which helped the Romans defend their occupied land.

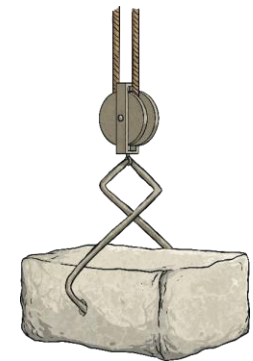
The wall also meant that the Romans could control who was entering and leaving Roman territory and charge taxes to those who wanted to come in.

Building the Wall

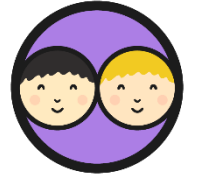


The Romans began building the wall in AD 122 and it took 16 years to build.

The wall was built by three Roman legions (15,000 men) using mostly stone. It was 117.5km long (or 80 Roman miles), up to 6m high and 3m wide. This meant that two Roman soldiers could perform sentry duty side-by-side.

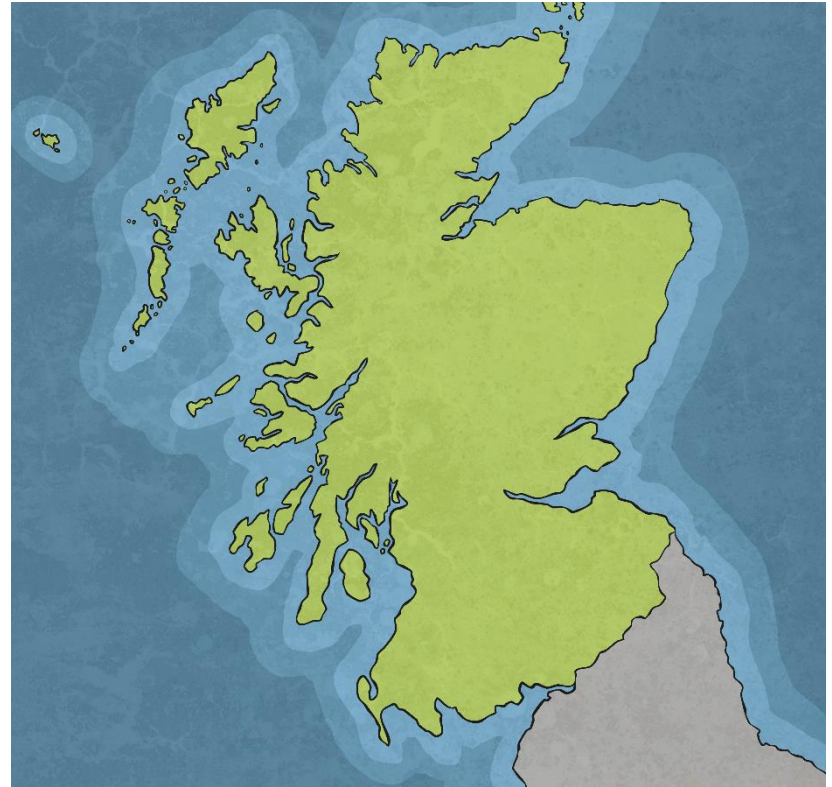


Along the Wall

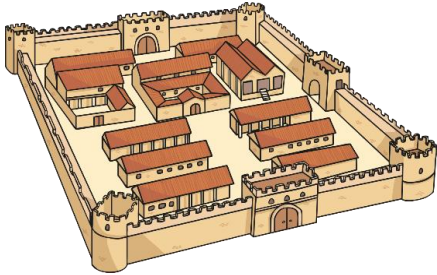


The wall ran from Bowness-on-Solway on the west Coast to Wallsend on the east Coast. It passed through Carlisle, Gilsland, Chollerford and Corbridge among many other places.

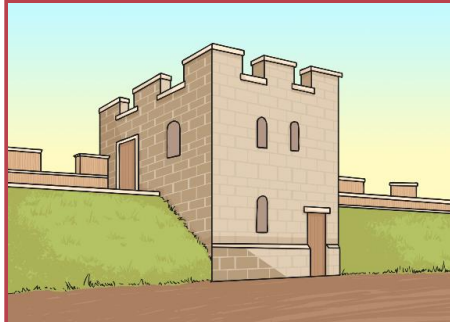
Can you find out the names of some other places that the wall passed through? What counties are they in? What else can you find out about them?



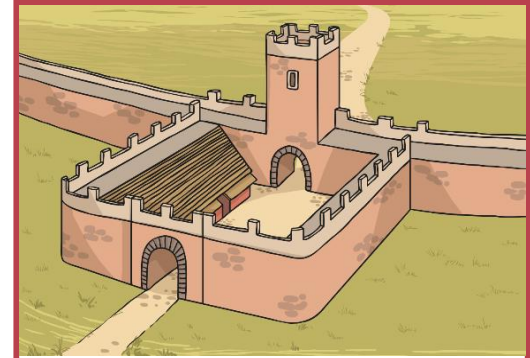
Not Just a Wall



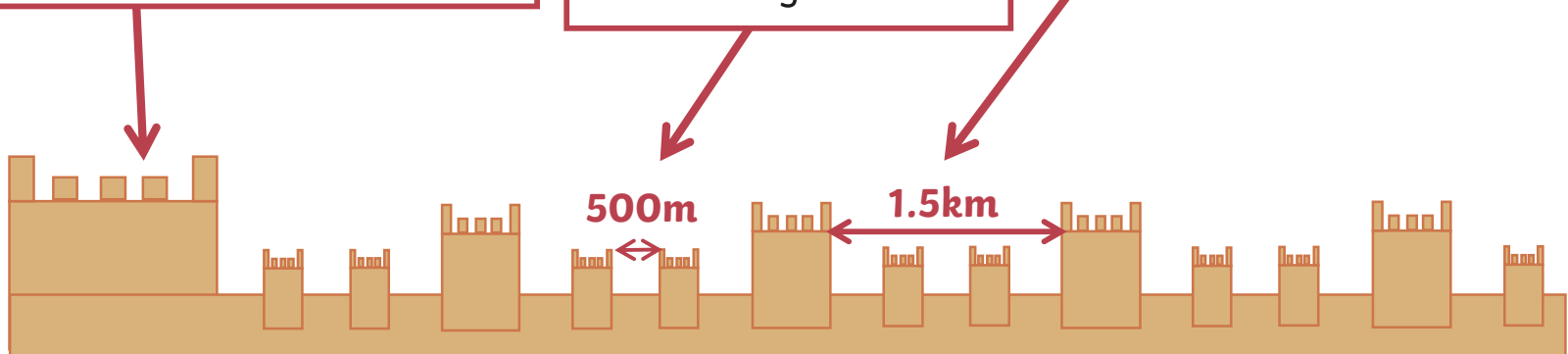
Major **forts** were built along the wall every 8km. These forts could accommodate between 500 to 1000 Roman soldiers!



There was a **turret** guarded by soldiers built every 500m.



There was a **milecastle** containing 20 soldiers every Roman mile (1.5km).



Life at the Wall



Since thousands of soldiers were stationed along the wall, provision had to be made in order for them to be able to live their lives. Inside the forts were barracks for the soldiers, a larger house for the commander and his family, a grain store, toilets and sometimes a hospital. There would also be a bathhouse just outside the fort so soldiers could keep clean. Over time, villages and communities developed around the forts. These settlements would contain houses, shops, temples and taverns. They were probably where the soldiers' wives and families lived.

Life at the Wall

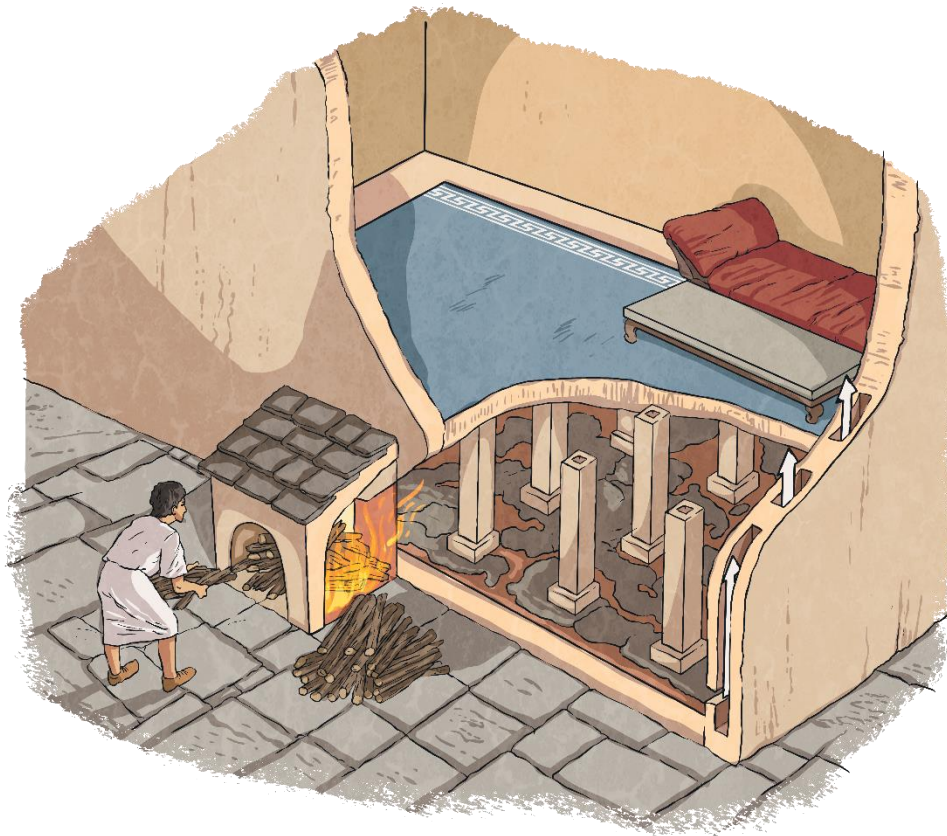
One of the forts was called Housesteads. It had a hospital, granary, barracks, workshop and toilets.

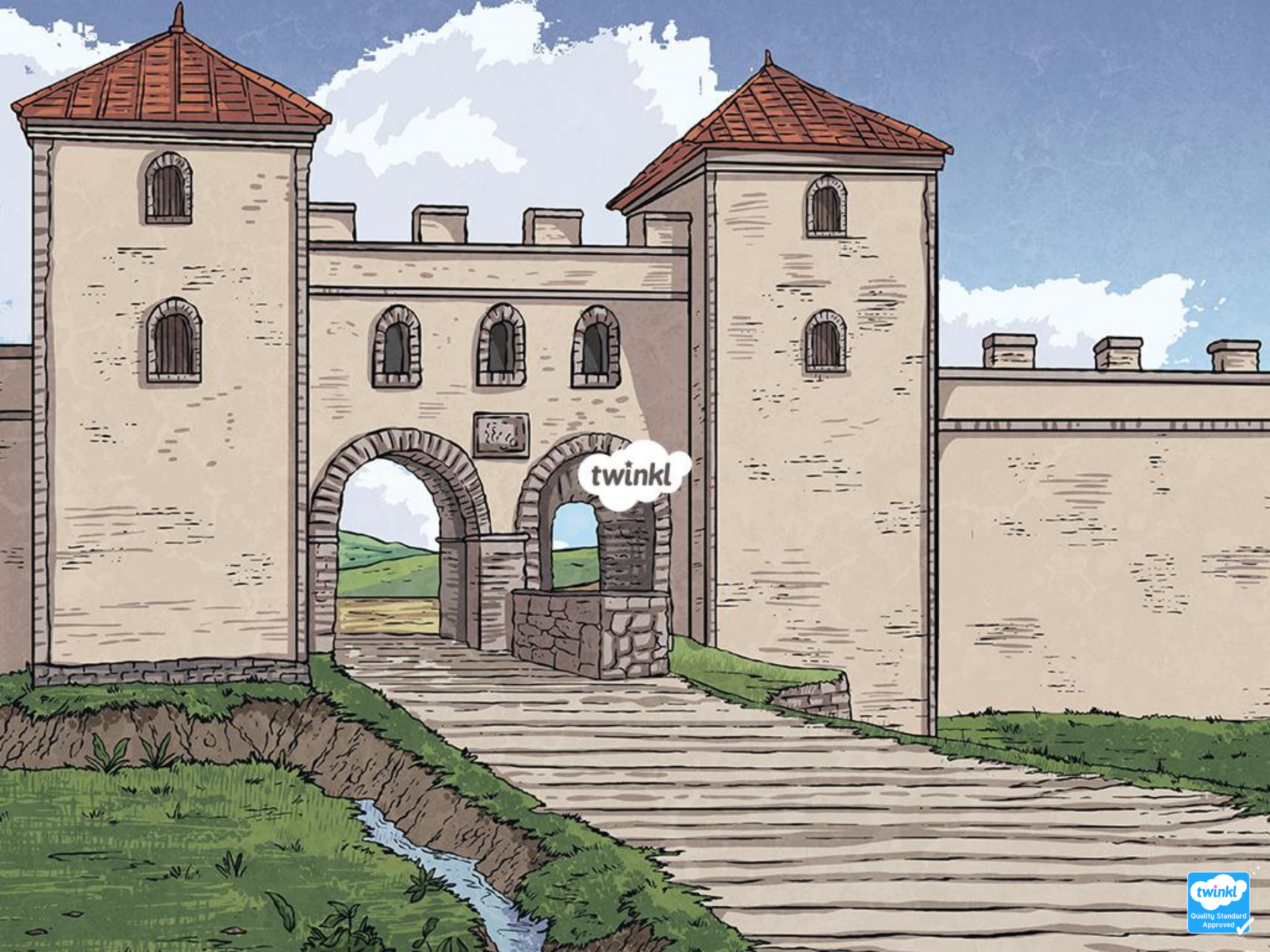


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Life at the Wall

A Roman road called the Stanegate was built to supply the soldiers based at Hadrian's Wall. Grain was kept dry in a store by the use of a hypocaust, similar to the system used in Roman baths.





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