



Wall Facts

I can describe who Emperor Hadrian was, say when, how and why he built a wall and explain the features of the wall.



Imagine you are a soldier stationed at a fort along Hadrian's Wall. Your task is to complete the information below about the wall. Use the word bank to help you.

Soldiers began Hadrian's Wall in _____. The wall was built out of _____.
_____ ordered the wall to be built. The wall was built to stop
the _____ from invading Britain. The wall starts at _____ and
ends at _____. Along the wall, there are _____,
_____ and _____. The wall is _____ metres
wide and _____ high. It is _____ long.

Emperor Hadrian	stone	milecastles
117km (80 Roman miles)	three	turrets
six	forts	Wallsend
Bowness-on-Solway	Picts	AD 122

Now draw a diagram of the wall. Make sure you show a milecastle, turret and fort.



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Imagine you are a soldier stationed at a fort along Hadrian's Wall. Your task is to complete the information table below about the wall, detailing when, why and how it was built so that new soldiers coming to the fort know the important facts about the wall.

Use the headings below to help you organise and present your information.

When was the wall built and how long did it take?	
Who ordered the wall to be built?	
Why was the wall built?	
Who built the wall?	
Where does the wall start and end?	
What features does the wall have? What are they for?	

Now draw a diagram of the wall. Make sure you show a milecastle, turret and fort.



Wall Facts

I can describe who Emperor Hadrian was, say when, how and why he built a wall and explain the features of the wall.



Imagine you are a Roman soldier stationed at a fort along Hadrian's Wall. You have recently received this letter from your dear old mum back in Rome who wants to find out all about your job working on the wall. Make sure you respond to each question fully and you should also use your imagination to include your own details.

After you have written the letter, draw a diagram of the wall. Make sure you show a milecastle, turret and fort.

Dear Felix,

I am missing you terribly! Why are you still in Britannia after all this time? How long has it taken now to build this wall? It must be pretty impressive, that's all I can say! What's so special about it? That Caledonian tribe... what are they called? Well, they must be pretty threatening if Hadrian had to build such a big wall. What have they done? How big is the wall now? How many men are working on it with you? I do hope you've not been left to do all the work because I know how you let people boss you around Felix. Don't let them bully you! Where is it you are stationed and what's going on around there? I've heard the wall starts in Carlisle and ends in Cirencester. Is that right? I can never remember those British place names. Your father sends his love by the way, but he does miss your roasted dormouse speciality dinner, so do hurry home! Are you going to be needed in Britannia much longer? What are you going to do when the wall is built?

Anyway, I must dash, your Auntie Dora and I are off to see a chariot race at the Circus Maximus tonight, I can't wait!

Please write soon Felix and take care. Make sure you wear your thickest sandals on that wall. I've heard the weather can be pretty perishing up in the north of Britannia. I do worry about your poor cold toes.

Much love, Mother xx



Wall Facts Answers

Imagine you are a soldier stationed at a fort along Hadrian's Wall. Your task is to complete the information below about the wall. Use the word bank to help you.

Soldiers began Hadrian's Wall in AD 122. The wall was built out of stone. Emperor Hadrian ordered the wall to be built. The wall was built to stop the Picts from invading Britain.

The wall starts at Bowness-on-Solway and ends at Wallsend. Along the wall, there are milecastles, turrets and forts. The wall is three metres wide and six high. It is 177km (70 Roman miles) long.



When was the wall built and how long did it take?	<i>The wall was started in AD 122 and took about 6 years to build.</i>
Who ordered the wall to be built?	<i>Emperor Hadrian ordered the wall to be built.</i>
Why was the wall built?	<i>The wall was built to defend the Roman land from being raided by the Picts. It also meant the Romans could control who was coming into and leaving their territory and charge them money.</i>
Who built the wall?	<i>Emperor Hadrian's soldiers built the wall.</i>
Where does the wall start and end?	<i>The wall went from the east coast at Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast.</i>
What features does the wall have? What are they for?	<i>The wall also features milecastles every 1.5km, turrets every 500m and forts every 8km which could accommodate 500 to 1000 soldiers. One fort, called Housesteads, had a hospital, granary, barracks, workshops and toilets.</i>



Wall Facts Answers

Example answer:

Dear Mother,

Thank you for your letter. It is lovely receiving post as it can be quite lonely here. I hope you and Aunty Dora had a lovely time at the chariot racing. I'm looking forward to seeing a race when I return.

I'm currently building a fort where the soldiers will sleep. It can sleep up to 1000 of us so it's pretty big, although it's not the biggest fort. That one is called Housesteads and includes a hospital, granary, barracks and workshops. That's just finished being built but we still have a long way to go. There are forts every 8km, small forts called milecastles every 1.5km and turrets every 500m so it's not just an ordinary wall. We are about three quarters of the way there. I can't believe it's taken 11 years to build so far! But then again, it is three metres wide and six metres high. There are lots of us working on it so don't worry, I'm not doing it on my own! In fact, there are three legions so 15,000 men are currently helping to build it. The main reason that Emperor Hadrian ordered us to build it was to keep the Picts (that's all of the Caledonian tribes) out of Britannia and so he can charge people taxes to come to our territory.

The wall stretches from the east coast in a place called Wallsend and is due to finish at the west-coast town of Bowness-on-Solway. There are lots of soldiers working their way along the wall, painting it white so that it can reflect the sunlight and can be seen for miles around. People will know we're not to be messed with even if they can't see us.

I'm not sure how much longer I will be here – hopefully not too long after the wall is built but, like I said, we've still got quite a way to go and it's not an easy job. Someone said we've got another five years to go until it's finished so that's a total of 16 years of building! Amazing! I'm so tired all the time and my body aches from lifting all the stones and putting them into place. Anyway, I better get back or else I'll be in trouble for not pulling my weight.

Write soon and tell me what Father has been doing. I do miss you both so much.

Lots of love,

Felix

xx