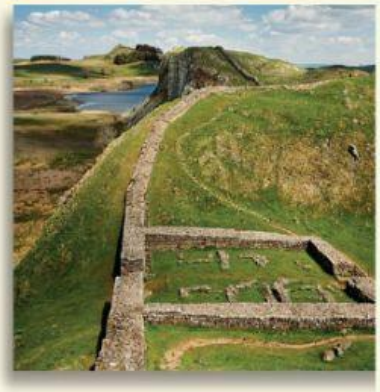
World-famous historical sites

Hadrian's Wall

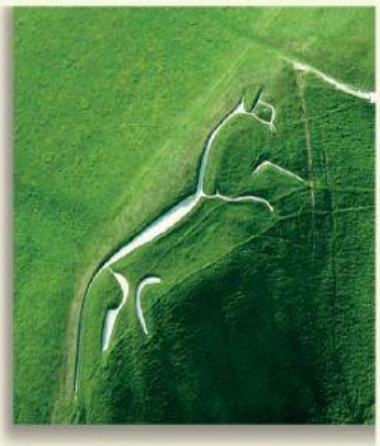


Hadrian's Wall, on the border of England and Scotland is the most famous and best-preserved frontier of the Roman Empire. The Emperor Hadrian established it as a border between conquered Britain (England and Wales) and the unconquered north (Scotland).

Work started on the wall in around 122 CE and it took over six years to build. Some 15 000 highly skilled men worked on it. It stretched for 117.5 kilometres, and was six metres high at the highest point and up to three metres wide. It is built mainly from stone, and had forts and watchtowers all along the wall. For over 300 years, it was occupied by different groups of soldiers.

Today, you can visit the remains of Hadrian's Wall and explore the absolutely fascinating sections of forts which still exist. You can also walk along the footpath which follows the wall from coast to coast.

Uffington White Horse

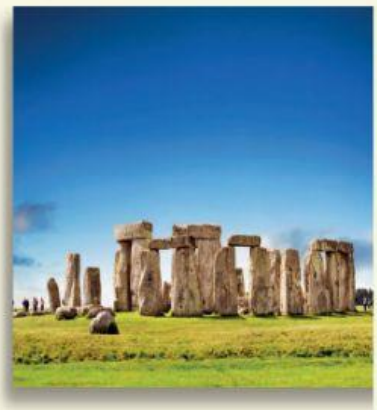


Uffington White Horse is a figure carved out of the chalk hillside of what is now called White Horse Hill in Oxfordshire, England. It is 110 metres long and its outline is made from deep trenches filled with crushed chalk. It has to be regularly cleaned by volunteers so that it remains clearly visible.

There are other ancient hill figures in England, but the Uffington White Horse is thought to be the oldest – it is believed to be about 3000 years old. Similar images have been found on coins of the same period. Nobody knows who made it or what it was for, but it may have been the symbol of a local tribe.

What we do know is that it is utterly beautiful, especially if you're lucky enough to get an aerial view of it.

Stonehenge



Stonehenge is an extremely ancient monument in Wiltshire, England. It's a circle of huge standing stones, which was started over 5000 years ago. It was built in stages, over hundreds of years.

There are 83 stones remaining, of two different types. Some of them came from over 250 kilometres away in Wales, while the largest came from around 40 kilometres away. The stones are incredibly heavy. It is thought that the stones were dragged on rollers when they crossed land, then put onto rafts to be carried along water.

No one is sure what it was used for, but it is located in an area of the country which has hundreds of burial mounds, so it may have been connected to death and burial. Amazingly, the position of the stones matches the summer and winter solstice dates, and many people go to Stonehenge to watch the sunrise on these days.

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Answer the questions with full sentences.

1 What was Hadrian's Wall the northern border of?

2 What can you see if you visit Hadrian's Wall today?

3 Why does the Uffington White Horse have to be regularly cleaned?

4 What do people think the Uffington White Horse was made for?

5 How long did it take to build Stonehenge?

6 What do some people think rafts were used for in building Stonehenge?

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