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The Haunted City of York

If you like the idea of exploring historic places around the world, the city of York in northern England should definitely be on your list of places to visit. The Romans founded this city in 71 AD and it's full of fascinating history and culture. It's a lot of fun to go on a city tour of York and walk along the ancient city walls, visit York Minster, one of the largest medieval cathedrals in Europe and wander down the pretty cobbled streets. York is also famous for something else. It is one of the most haunted cities in the world, with about 140 ghosts! In fact, York's many night-time ghost walks are very popular with tourists as they are an entertaining and spooky way to learn about the city's history. One York ghost story, however, stands out above all the rest. It's the story of the Treasurer's House, one of York's many historic buildings ...

One day in February 1953, a plumber, Harry Martindale, had been in the cellar of the Treasurer's House since morning. He had heard lots of stories about the place being haunted. Just before midday, he was working when he heard a strange noise like a trumpet. He looked back and saw the helmet of a Roman soldier coming through the wall! Harry couldn't believe his eyes. Then, a whole soldier on a horse came through the wall and left through the wall on the other side! Twenty more Roman soldiers followed him. They were marching unhappily in pairs and they were carrying shields and spears. What Harry hadn't noticed was that the soldiers weren't walking on the floor of the cellar, because he couldn't see their legs. When he realised that, Harry ran out of the cellar, terrified. He found out later that some Roman soldiers had gone missing in York many centuries before. Maybe the soldiers he saw were the missing soldiers and they were walking on the old Roman road below the cellar!

Want to know more? Visit www.visitork.org for more information about York and its ghostly attractions!

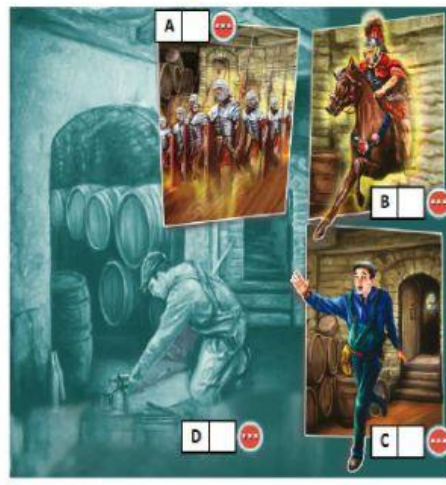
Check these words

haunted, explore, historic, found, fascinating, ancient wall, medieval cathedral, wander, cobbled street, ghost, spooky, stand out, march, shield, spear, terrified, find out, go missing, ghostly attraction

Vocabulary & Reading & Speaking

Vocabulary & Reading & Speaking

- 1 a) Look at the pictures. Which shows: ☹
- 1 a plumber working in a cellar?
 - 2 a soldier on a horse coming through the wall?
 - 3 Roman soldiers marching, carrying shields and spears?
 - 4 a man running out of a cellar?



2 Read again and number the events in the order they happened. ☹

- 1 2 3 4 5 6

- ☹ A He saw the helmet of a Roman soldier coming through the wall.
- ☹ B A horse with a Roman soldier on it walked through the cellar.
- ☹ C Harry ran out of the cellar.
- ☹ D Harry Martindale, a plumber, went to work in the cellar.
- ☹ E He heard a strange noise like a trumpet coming from the wall.
- ☹ F Twenty Roman soldiers marched through in pairs, carrying shields and spears.

3 Fill in: ...

medieval

city

cobbled

ghost

ancient

Use the phrases to make sentences.

1 tour ...

2 city walls ...

3 cathedrals ...

4 streets ...

5 story ...

4 Choose the correct word. Check in your dictionaries. ...

The 1) **historic/historical** ... city of York is a 2) **popular/typical** ... holiday destination in England. The Romans 3) **created/founded** ... York almost 2,000 years ago on the north-east bank of the River Ouse. Tourists enjoy 4) **wondering/wandering** ... York's narrow streets during the daytime and taking part in ghost 5) **walks/marches** ... at night. People believe that a lot of places there are 6) **ghostly/haunted**. ... One such place is the Treasurer's House, whose 7) **history/story** ... is quite fascinating. A plumber working there heard a noise, then saw Roman soldiers coming through the walls 8) **carrying/bringing** ... shields and spears. When the plumber 9) **observed/noticed** ... the soldiers had no legs, he left the cellar 10) **terrified/afraid**. ...

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1 b) ★ Complete the sentences with the phrases below. ...

ghost story

medieval cathedrals

ancient city walls

cobbled streets

haunted city

- 1 York's are over 3 km in length. ...
- 2 Jane and Evan walked along the of the old town. ...
- 3 The in England have beautiful stained glass windows. ...
- 4 Tommy found the very frightening. ...
- 5 The next time you find yourself in a like York; go on a ghost walk. ...

2 ★ Choose the correct word. ...

- 1 Millions of tourists visit the **historic/historical** city for its rich architecture. ...
- 2 Treasurer's House is a **popular/typical** tourist attraction. ...
- 3 The Romans **created/founded** the city of York in 71 AD. ...
- 4 Tom and Marcy spent the day just **wondering/wandering** around the town. ...
- 5 Tourists come to York to go on ghost **walks/marches** at night. ...
- 6 Ryan wanted to visit the **ghostly/haunted** castle. ...
- 7 Harry Martindale's **history/story** of the Roman soldiers is famous in York. ...
- 8 After seeing a ghost the boys ran out of the house, **terrified/afraid!** ...
- 9 The soldiers marched into battle **carrying/bringing** their weapons. ...
- 10 The plumber screamed when he **observed/noticed** that the soldiers had no legs. ...