**History – The Romans:**

**Lesson 9: History**

**LO: To understand who Emperor Hadrian was and why he built a wall.**

**Key Information:**

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**

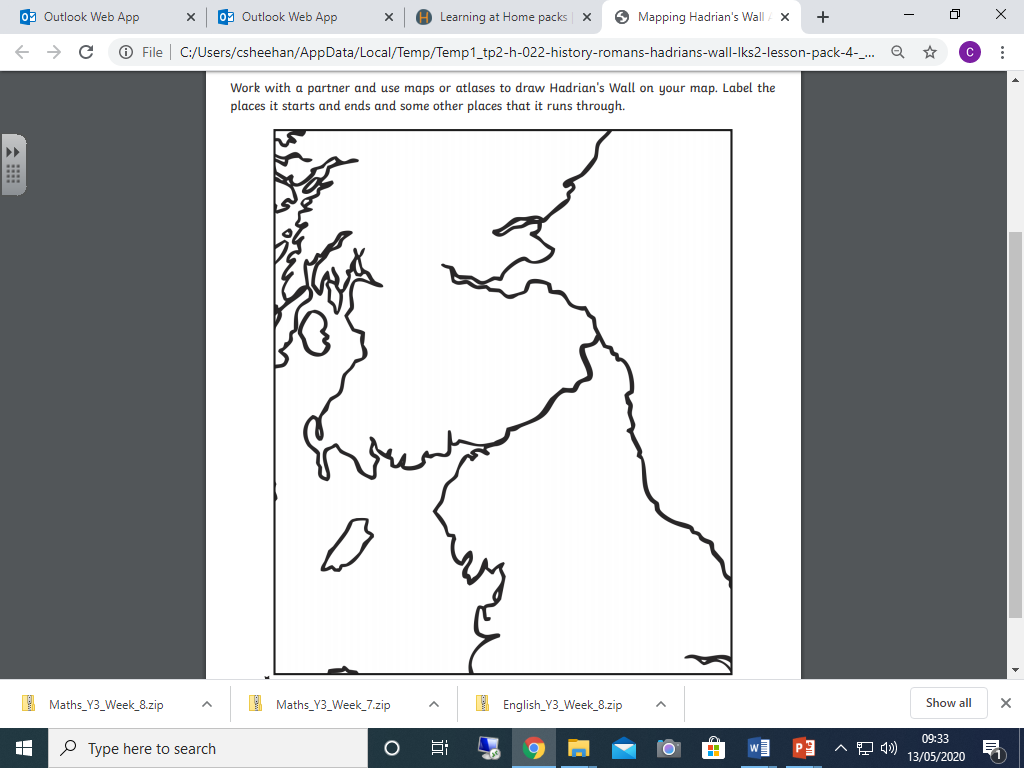
The Romans began building the wall in AD 122 and it took   
16 years to build.

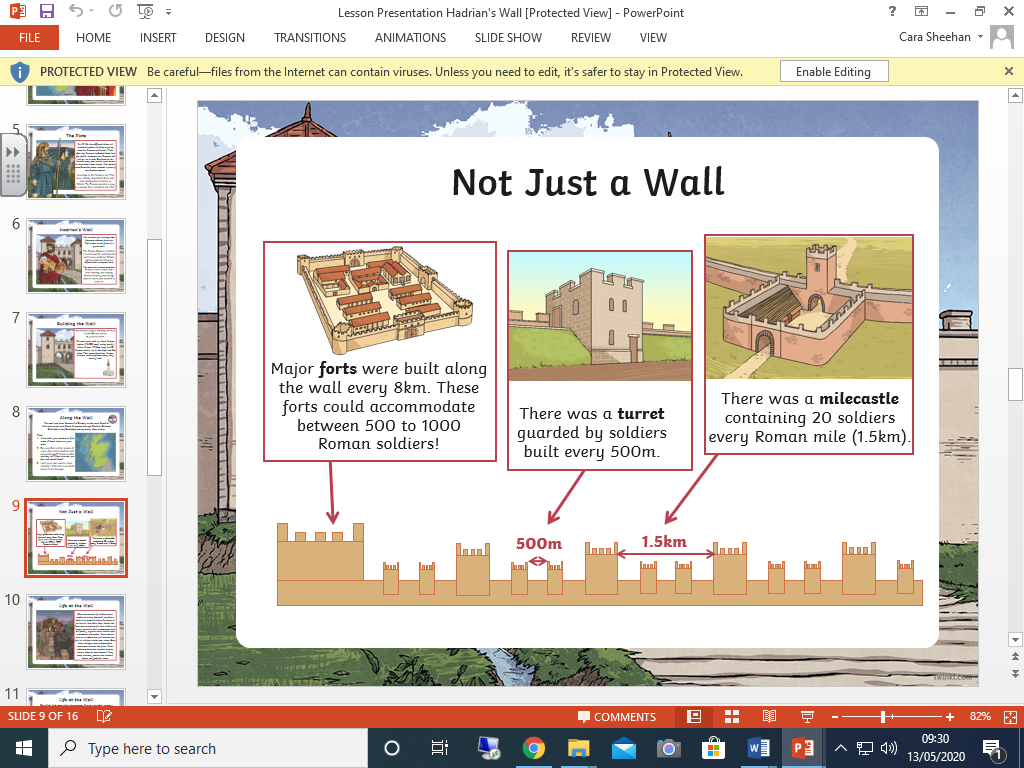
The wall was built by three Roman legions (15,000 men) using mostly stone. It was 117.5km long (or 80 Roman miles), up to 6m high and 3m wide. This meant that two Roman soldiers could perform sentry duty side-by-side.

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.

**Task:**

1. Can you find some of these places on a map?
2. 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?
3. Draw and label your own map (or use the one below) to show Hadrian’s Wall and some of the places it ran through.



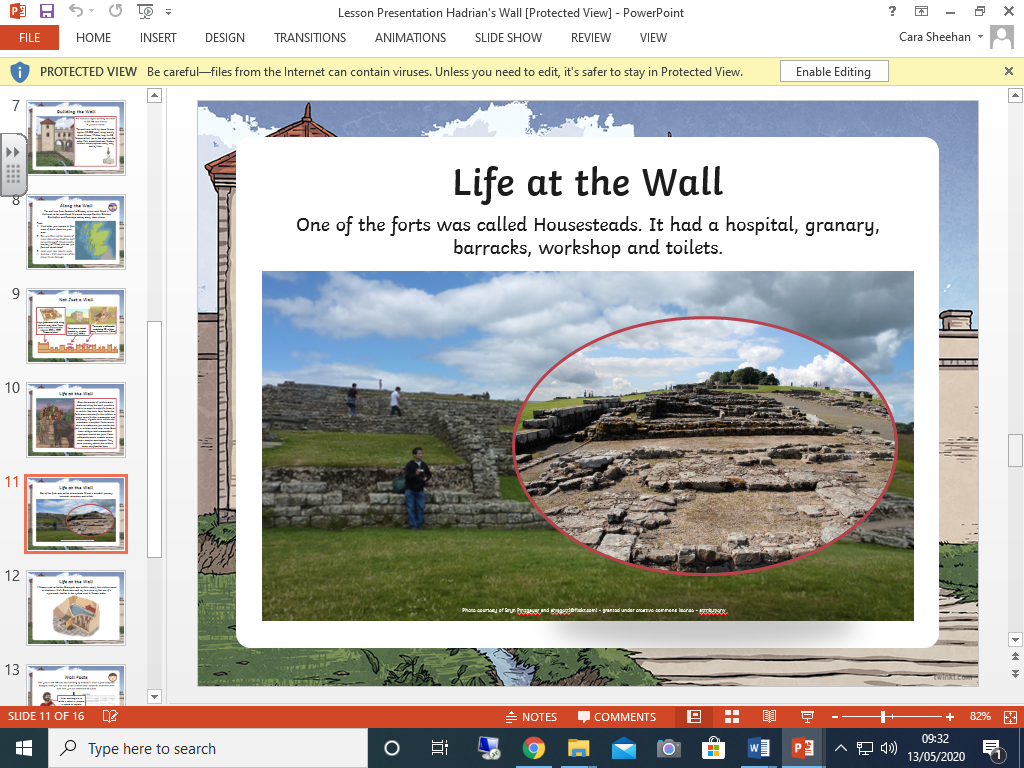


**Life at the Wall**

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.

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

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.



**Task 1:** Complete the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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? |  |

Task 2: Imagine you are a Roman soldier stationed at the wall. Write a letter back home to you family giving details of your experience.

**Things to include:**

* How long it took to build the wall.
* Who did you build it with?
* Describe the wall; it’s features, where it’s located, etc.
* How you felt building the wall.
* What your life is like at the wall.

(\*Remember the features of letter writing we looked at in school this year!)

There is lined paper attached below.

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