

20 WALLS AND TOWERS

A wall is built to keep people in or out. Towers can be part of a wall. One of the most mysterious walls is a 160 km-long earth bank known as the Eredo in Nigeria. It is partially hidden by dense forest, and is thought to be about 1,000 years old but no one is certain why it is there.



⬆ The Great Wall is the longest structure ever built, but in the end it did not keep out invaders.

Why did the Chinese build the Great Wall?

The Great Wall of China was built to protect China against 'barbarian' invaders from the north. Chinese civilization was based on farming, and the young Chinese nation was often raided by nomads from the North. In the 200s BC, the Chinese emperor Shi Huangdi ordered old frontier walls to be linked by walls and forts

to keep its nuisance neighbours out. The Great Wall winds for more than 6,400 km over mountains, hills and plateaus and along the edges of deserts. The wall was 9 m high, and was originally dotted with watchtowers with a walkway along the top for patrolling guards. Some sections of the Great Wall are now in ruins or have even disappeared, but it is still one of the world's most momentous sights.



Which was the longest Roman wall?

Hadrian's Wall (named after the Emperor Hadrian) stretches for 118 km across the hills of northern England from Wallsend-on-Tyne in the east to Bowness on the Solway Firth in the west. In the AD 120s, Roman legionary soldiers built this wall to control travel between Roman Britain and the north, and keep out northern tribes. When it was first built, the wall was 2 to 3 m thick and 117 km in length. Long stretches of the wall still wind over the hills.

Dizzying heights



Amazing facts

- Though no longer the tallest skyscraper, the Sears Tower in Chicago, USA (443 m) still has the most floors: 110.
- The first skyscraper was built by Le Baron Jenney in Chicago in 1885. It had just ten floors.
- The Empire State Building, New York City, is probably the world's most recognized tall building; built in 1931 it is 381 m high.

⌚ The Ananda Temple in Myanmar, Burma, was completed in 1091. It rises in graduated terraces to a height of 52 m.

the Middle Ages, the tallest buildings were church spires and campaniles (bell-towers). Sometimes cathedral builders aimed too high and towers fell down. The main spire of Lincoln Cathedral in England was the highest in the world (160 m) until 1548, when it collapsed. Each of its three towers had spires today there are none.

Above the clouds



Malaysia, where they are a national symbol. The USA was the first country to build skyscrapers in the 1800s, but countries over the world have competed to build taller skyscrapers. In 1996 the twin Petronas towers rose high above the city of Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia was number one in the skyscraper charts. The towers are 452 m high, and house 88 storeys of offices.

Where are the Petronas Towers?

Hadrian's wall was defended by ditches. At every Roman mile (1500 m) there was a mini-tower with a tower to guard crossing points.



Why is the Eiffel Tower so remarkable?

People laughed when Gustave Eiffel said he planned to build a steel tower over 300 m high in Paris. But he did. The Eiffel Tower was built in two years, 1887–89, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. It was assembled from 12,000 sections, held together by over two million rivets.

⬇ For 40 years, the Eiffel Tower was the tallest structure in the world. It is still the most famous landmark in France.

What made the Tower of Pisa lean?

Tall buildings are heavy, as medieval builders of Pisa, in Italy, soon discovered. In the 1150s, the city's new bell-tower began to tilt before it was half finished. The soil underneath was just too soft. Even when the tower was finished, in the 1300s, it leaned perilously. Modern engineers have worked hard to make sure that its lean does not turn into a collapse! The Leaning Tower is 56 m high and one of Italy's most popular tourist attractions.

Extreme measures

Longest wall	The Great Wall of China
Tallest tower	CN Tower in Canada 555 m high
Most famous seaside tower	Blackpool, England
Longest Roman wall	Hadrian's Wall, northern Britain
Most topsy-turvy tower	Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy
Biggest pagoda	Shwe Dagon pagoda, Burma
Most gloomy tower	Bloody Tower in the Tower of London
Noisiest tower	The legendary Tower of Babel

⬇ Architects have speculated as to whether the top-most storey of the leaning tower should be removed, in an effort to stabilize it.

Memorials help us remember events or people. Some memorials are so big that it's impossible to miss them. But others are hidden. Sometimes, treasures found in the ground reveal hidden stories about a long-lost past.

What was unearthed at Sutton Hoo?

A king who ruled East Anglia in England in the 600s. He was buried in a wooden ship, 27 m long. The ship had been placed in a trench, and inside lay the body of a warrior, probably a powerful local king called Raedwald of the East Angles. He had been buried with clothes, weapons and treasure. Then his ship-grave had been filled in. The ship-burial remained undiscovered until unearthed by archaeologists at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk in 1939.



⌚ A replica of the Sutton Hoo helmet, found in the ship-burial.



⌚ The Gateway Arch is the tallest monument in the USA. It was completed in 1965.

Whose journey is remembered by a giant arch?

American pioneers. The Gateway to the West in St Louis, USA is an 192-m U-shaped arch that stands beside the Mississippi River. It commemorates the migration of thousands of settlers who set off in wagon trains to make new homes in the West in the 1840s–1870s.

Who was buried with an army of clay soldiers?

The Chinese emperor, Shih Huang-di in around 210 BC. The ancient Chinese believed their dead rulers would need servants and soldiers in the after-life. So when Shi Huang-di, the first Qin emperor died his tomb was filled with clay model soldiers. Archaeologists were amazed to find them in 1974 when part of the huge imperial tomb complex was opened.

⌚ The terracotta clay warriors of the Chinese emperor's immortal army.



Ancient treasures

What's wonderful about a mummy?

The Egyptians believed in life after death and made careful preparations for death and burial. They believed it was important to preserve the body of a dead person. The body was treated with chemicals and oils and then dried, to stop it decaying. The mummy was wrapped in linen bandages and put in a coffin, inside a tomb, along with clothes, weapons, jewels and food.

⌚ When ready for burial, a mummy was placed inside a special coffin. Some of these were shaped and richly decorated.



Famous monuments

The highest column in the world commemorates the battle of San Jacinto fought between Texans and Mexicans in 1836. Britain's famous monuments include The Monument (a column marking the spot in London where the Great Fire of 1666 began) and Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square in London, with a statue of Admiral Horatio Nelson on top.



☛ *Treasure divers still hunt for wrecks of ships lost in storms around Britain in 1588 and thought to be carrying Spanish gold.*

to search!

islands, but wrecked ships are the best places pirates may have hidden treasure on lonely

Pirate treasure – Captain Kidd and other melted down the treasures to make gold and silver bars.

Inca loot – In 1532 the Spanish conquistador Pizarro demanded a huge ransom for the Inca leader Atahualpa – a roomful of gold, and another filled with silver. The Incas paid, but the Spaniards still killed Atahualpa. They

Tutankhamen's tomb – opened by Howard Carter in 1922 and found to still contain most of its original tomb-treasures.

Famous treasure

Wighty monuments

name	Where	Height
Gateway to the West	St Louis, USA	192 m
San Jacinto Monument	Texas, USA	173 m
Washington Monument	Washington DC, USA	169 m
Motherland statue	Russia	82 m
The Monument	London, UK	61 m
Nelson's Column	London, UK	51 m



☛ *Among the finds in Tutankhamun's tomb was the gold death mask of the young king.*

and jars of precious oils.

words, ostrich feathers, models of ships, toys objects including chests, necklaces, chariots, astonishing treasures – more than 5,000 archaeologist Howard Carter. Inside were 922, his tomb was found by the British e was buried in the Valley of the Kings. In gpt about 1347 BC but died aged 18. utankhamun, who became king of

Whose tomb revealed a lost treasure?

Which leaders stare out from a mountain?

Four US presidents, whose stone heads loom from rocky Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, USA. Carving work began in 1927. It took four years to build and cost \$1 million. Each head is as big as a five-storey building and the faces tower 1,800 m above sea level. The carvings are scaled to men who would stand 141 m tall. On each carving, the president's nose is 6 m long, the mouth 5 m wide and the eyes are 3 m across. The Mount Rushmore National Memorial honours four of the most important US Presidents – these are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

meaning 'old mountain'.

The local people called it 'Machu Picchu', American explorer, Hiram Bingham, in 1911. unknown to the world until discovered by an Cuzco in Peru. Machu Picchu remained

of Machu Picchu lie in the mountains near stronghold. The ruins of the walled Inca city but never managed to capture the Incas' last conquered the Inca civilization in the 1500s, and other strongholds. The Spaniards

High in the Andes, at Machu Picchu

Where did the last Incas live in secret?

☛ *The Spaniards never found the Inca fortress of Machu Picchu. Today, half a million tourists visit it every year.*

