

Stretching 117 kilometres across northern England, from coast to coast, is a continuous line of large stones. The stones represent one of the greatest symbols of power in European history. Hadrian's Wall, built on the orders of the Roman emperor Hadrian in 122 AD, marked the western frontier of Rome's European-wide empire. The

One of the biggest barriers ever built, the wall stretched from Wallsend in the east to Bowness on the Solway Firth. It was originally 4.6 metres high and 2.4 metres wide. It had enormous ditches on both sides, as well as turrets, outposts, watch-stations and fourteen forts. Thousands of Roman soldiers and English labourers spent ten years on its construction.

The wall quickly became home to one of the largest and most cosmopolitan concentrations of Roman soldiers in the empire. The thousands of soldiers included men from modern-day Belgium, Spain, Rumania, Syria, France, Croatia, Iraq and North Africa. The lingua franca in this horizontal Tower of Babel was Latin.

The wall acted like a magnet on local English tribes. Settlements started to appear to the south of the forts. These bustling communities, of up to 2,500 people, included traders, merchants, innkeepers, bakers, butchers, tailors,

From urban metropolises such as New York, Sydney or Edinburgh to natural or human-made wonders such as the Egyptian pyramids, the Nepalese Himalayas or the Bolivian Amazon a virtual tour can bring a world of information and inspiration to your screen.

While travel and economic restrictions make real-life adventures difficult, thanks to VR and 360-degree video technology you can immerse yourself in virtual environments that give you a real sense of what a place is like, without actually being there.

Some books are instant classics. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy is one. Writing in a Southern Gothic tradition, McCarthy explores unforgiving, violent lives illuminated by moments of goodness. Haunting and profound and written in lyrical pared-down prose, *The Road* describes the journey that an unnamed man and his son make after a global catastrophe.

The Road describes all the love and protection a father can offer his son in a post-apocalyptic environment. The reason for the disaster is never explained. Was it a nuclear strike? An asteroid? A giant volcanic eruption? Whatever has happened, the world has changed forever:

Central to *The Road* is the question: 'What if...?' What if you found yourself in a world with no fresh food or water, no government or laws, no electricity or shelter? Could you survive? What if you met thieves and murderous gangs? Would you join them or flee from them? What if the sky and land were filled with ash and the old world were reduced to debris? How would you cope?

Allegati: