

# 1 A Wall to Keep us Safe

Why do nations build walls?

## 1 Compare two walls

- A. What do you know about these two walls?  
B. Compare them and make an assumption about their goal.

### HELP!

#### Nouns

- remains /rɪ'meɪnz/: (ici) vestiges
- stone wall
- ice wall

#### Adjectives

- thick /θɪk/: épais(se)
- majestic
- higher
- huge = impressive = imposing



Hadrian's Wall was built between AD 122 and AD 127 in England



The Wall in *Game of Thrones*

## 2 Hadrian's Wall as a source of inspiration

- A. Focus on the text from line 1 to 5. Who is this document about?  
B. Explain what happened in the 1980s. What was the effect on the author?  
C. What was the original purpose of Hadrian's Wall?  
D. Clarify the changes the author made to "The Wall" in his novel. Why did he do that?  
E. Go further. What do you think the purpose of both walls is?

The author of the bestselling *Game of Thrones* books, which have been turned into the award-winning TV show on Sky Atlantic, has revealed that seeing Hadrian's Wall planted the seeds<sup>1</sup> of inspiration back in the 1980s for his popular  
5 fantasy tale.

In an interview with American magazine *Rolling Stone*, George R.R. Martin said it was the Northumberland landmark<sup>2</sup> which first got him thinking about the plot and inspired The Wall, an integral part of the series.

- 10 Martin said "The Wall predates anything else. I can trace back the inspiration for that to 1981. I was in England visiting a friend, and as we approached the border of England and Scotland, we stopped to see Hadrian's Wall. I stood up there and I tried to imagine what it was like to be a Roman  
15 legionary, standing on this wall, looking at these distant hills.

"It was a very profound feeling. For the Romans at that time, this was the end of civilization; it was the end of the world. We know that there were Scots beyond<sup>3</sup> the hills, but they didn't know that. "It could have been any kind of monster. It was the sense of this barrier against dark forces – it planted something in me. But when you write fantasy, everything is bigger and more colourful, so I took The Wall and made it three times as long and 700 feet high, and made it out of ice."

- 20 In the TV show, The Wall is a massive fortification which stretches for 300 miles along the northern border of the Seven Kingdoms, defending the realm from the wildlings<sup>4</sup> who live beyond.

1 to plant an idea • 2 (ici) a monument • 3 further away • 4 barbarous people

Sarah Scott, \_\_\_\_\_, 5 June 2014