

Vespasian (69-79 AD)



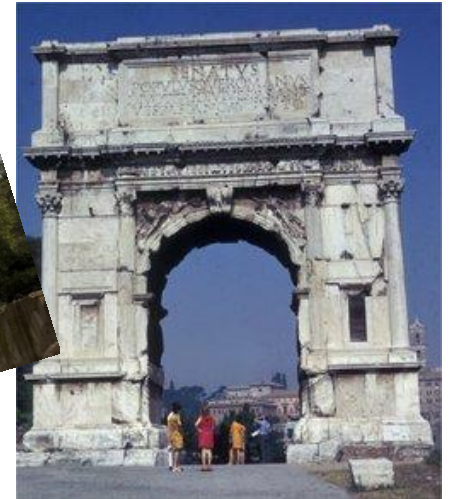
- Politician and military man.
- Participated in everything from invading Britain to selling mules.
- Fell out of favor under Nero because he didn't pay enough attention to his lyre playing.
- He regained favor by putting down a Jewish revolt in Judea in 66 AD.

- In 69 AD Vespasian was declared emperor by his legions.
- He restored discipline in the army.
- He put the government and finances in order.
- Kept a close eye on the treasury and frowned on extravagance.
- *Peace of Vespasian* – he closed the Gates of Janus.
- He began construction of the Colosseum.
- He was noted for mildness and a sense of justice.

Titus (79-81 AD)



- Elder son of Vespasian.
- Gained fame for helping his father put down the Jewish revolt in Jerusalem.
- His triumph was memorialized with the *Arch of Titus*.



- Titus took the throne after the death of his father.
- He was an effective and well-loved emperor.
- He held expensive gladiatorial games.
- He continued work on the Colosseum.
- He was emperor during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.
- He died in 81 AD of a fever.



Domitian (81-96 AD)



- Took the throne after the death of his brother.
- Well educated.
- Little military training or experience.
- Poor administrator.
- He raised taxes and used monies to build over 80 temples.

- He had many affairs.
- He finished the Colosseum.
- He loved arts and games.
- He invented Capitoline Games – held every four years.
- He enjoyed gladiator shows and added innovations like female and dwarf gladiators.
- Domitian became very cruel and began persecuting Jews and Christians.
- He was also paranoid and executed many Senators and wealthy Romans.
- Domitian was murdered in 96 AD by his bodyguards, his wife and members of the Senate.

Nerva (96-98 AD)



- First of the Five Good Emperors.
- He may have been approached for the position by the conspirators.
- He released those imprisoned for treason.

- He restored confiscated property.
- He involved the Senate in his rule.
- He was unpopular with the army and adopted a popular general, Trajan, to gain their support.



Trajan (98-117 AD)



- He was from a well respected family.
- Rose through military ranks and became one of the foremost military commanders of the Empire.
- When Nerva died, he became the first non-Italian emperor.

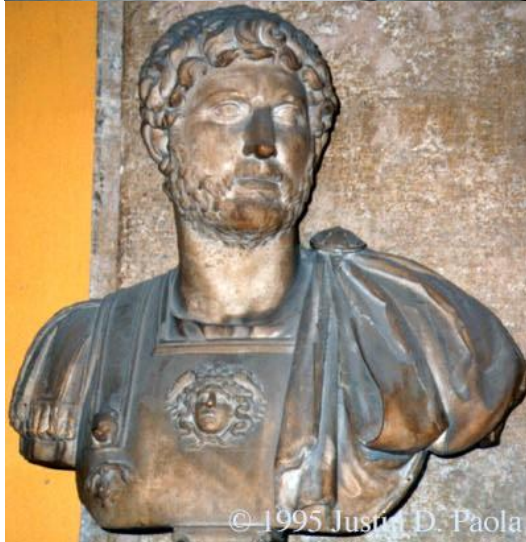


- He was a popular emperor, freeing falsely accused prisoners and returning confiscated lands.
- The Senate gave him the title *optimus* – the best.
- He expanded Rome's borders, taking Jordan and part of Saudi Arabia.
- He left the Christians alone.
- He began new building projects.
- While campaigning in Mesopotamia, Trajan suffered from heat stroke and his health began to decline.
- He dies in 117 AD of edema and named Hadrian as his successor.

Hadrian (117-138 AD)

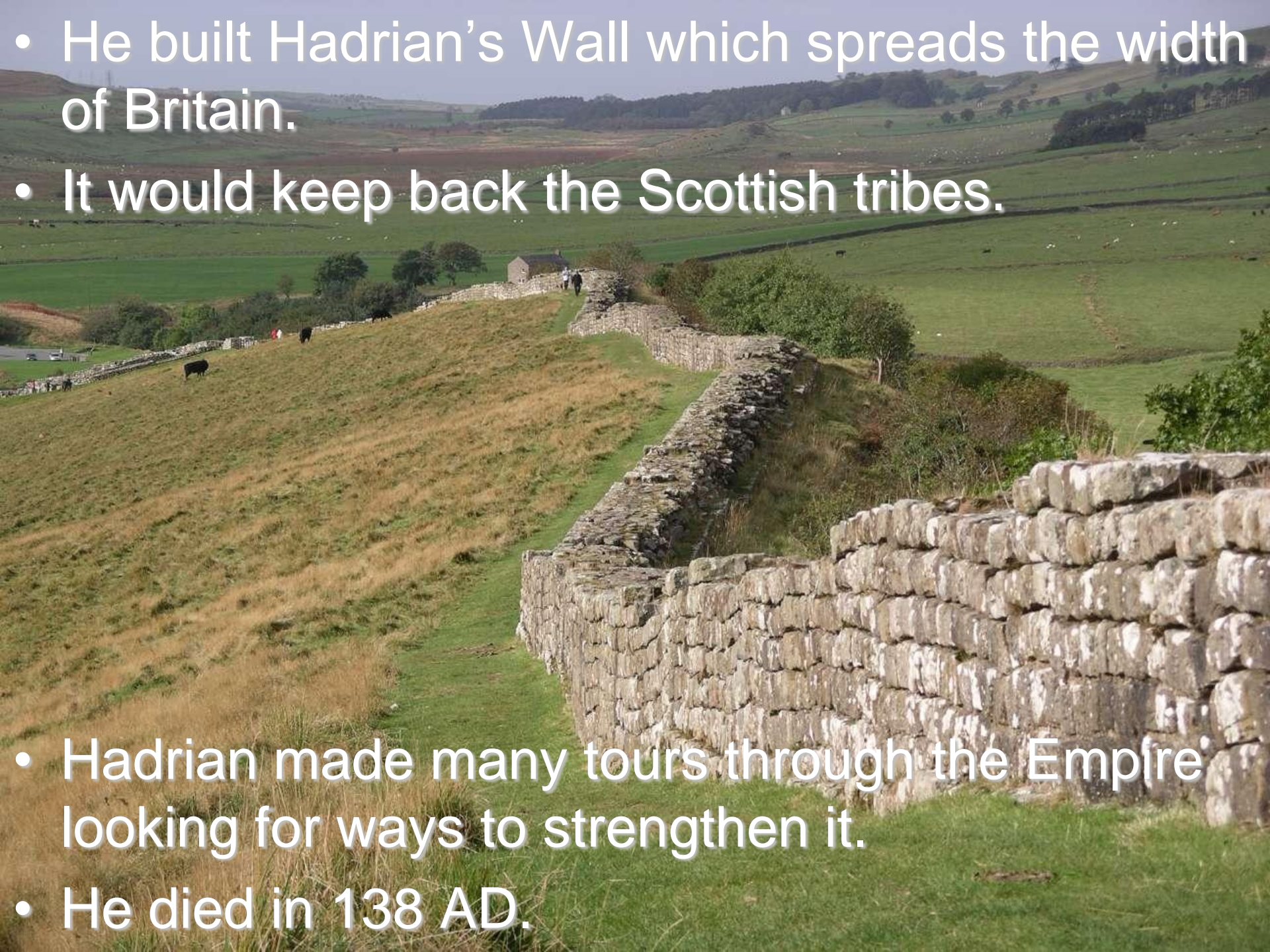


- He was a good military strategist and administrator.
- Hadrian instituted a peace policy.
- He halted expansion and built defenses along the Roman borders as defense.

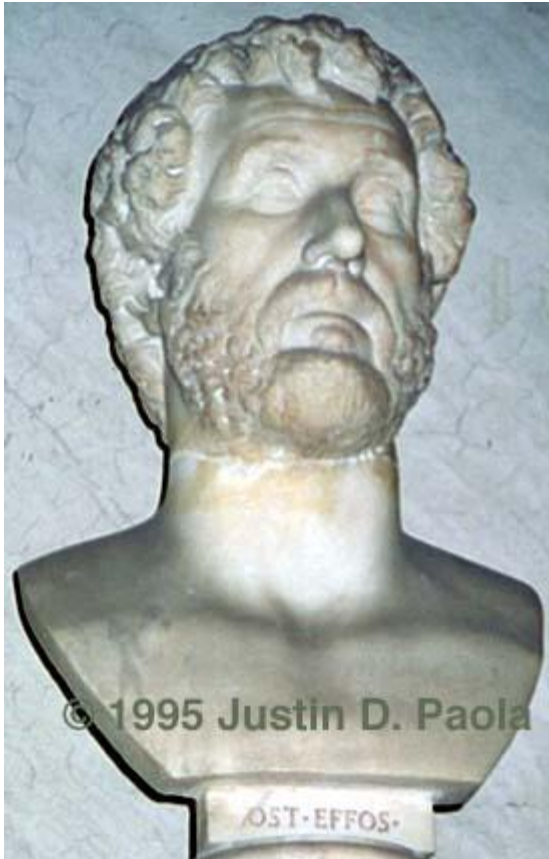


- He built Hadrian's Wall which spreads the width of Britain.
- It would keep back the Scottish tribes.

- Hadrian made many tours through the Empire looking for ways to strengthen it.
- He died in 138 AD.



Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD)



- He had been adopted by Hadrian and named successor.
- Uneventful reign.
- He built temples, theatres and mausoleums.
- He promoted arts and sciences.
- His two sons died before he became emperor.
- He died of fever in 161 AD.



Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD)



- He had been adopted by Antoninus Pius and named successor.
- Constantly at war – Germanic tribes.
- Defending several borders at once.
- A writer – *Meditations* – guide to self-improvement.
- He died in 180 AD.

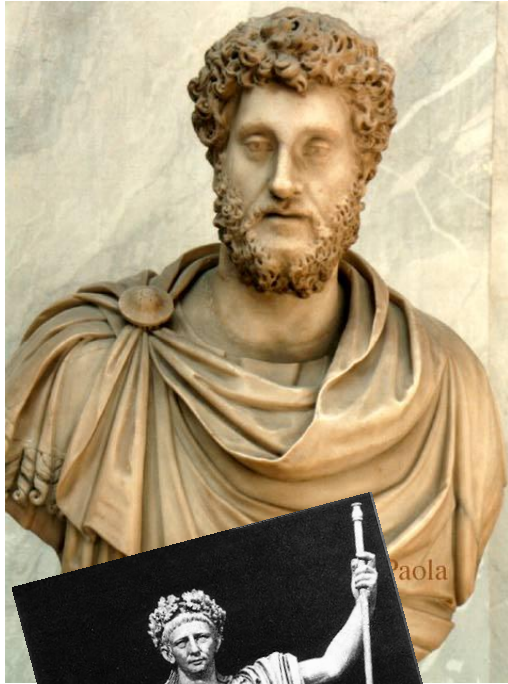


Lucius Verus (161-169 AD)



- Co-emperor with Marcus Aurelius until his death in 169 AD.
- He was Aurelius' brother and commander of the army.
- He helped Marcus defend the borders of the empire and was well liked by his troops.
- He dies in 169 AD of food poisoning or smallpox.

Commodus (180-192 AD)



- Considered one of the worst emperors and cause of its fall.
- Son and successor of Marcus Aurelius.
- Thought to have been insane.
- Impressed with his own physical prowess.
- He encouraged the portrayal of himself dressed as Hercules with a lion's hide and club.
- He would fight animals in the arena.



- He loved gladiator games and fought in them himself.
- He claimed to have killed over 12,000 men and charged 1 million sesterces for each appearance.
- He once had the population of a city executed because one person looked at him the wrong way.
- He wanted to be worshipped as a god.
- He had a relationship with his sister.
- He renamed the city of Rome after himself.

- In 192 AD, Commodus was killed.
- He was strangled in his sleep by the wrestler Narcissus or died in the arena.



Septimius Severus (193-211 AD)



- Born in Africa, near Carthage.
- He was appointed by the military and was the first of the soldier emperors.
- He fought to expand the borders.
- He was disliked by the Senate.

- He executed many senators and replaced them with his friends.
- He was popular with the people.
- He brought stability to the empire, maybe for the last time.
- He died in 211 AD of pneumonia.



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