

GCSE HISTORY – Fountains Abbey – 1. Why was Fountains Abbey created?

1. Key Overview			
religion	Everyone is very religious - Christian	Water channels at the entrance to the refectory	This tells us that they lived a devout life dedicated to God , cleaning their hands before eating. Hygiene was also important.
monk	A man part of a religious community who has dedicated his life to God.	Fireplaces in the guest house	This tells us that guests lived more comfortably than the Cistercian monks in Fountains Abbey.
monastery	A building where monks live and pray every day.	A large cellarium where lay brothers would eat	This tells us that lay brothers and choir monks led separate lives , as the lay brothers would eat in a different area.
abbey	A monastery that is more than one building .	The cloisters	This tells us that education and scriptures were very important parts of everyday life.
denomination	A branch or sub-group of a religion.		
Cistercian	A group of monks who believe in living a very strict life .		
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks in wood .		
1539	Fountains Abbey is closed by Henry VIII .		
1986	Fountains Abbey became a World Heritage Site for tourists.		
2. Medieval Religion		5. Places in Fountains Abbey	
Catholic Church	A denomination of Christianity , led by the Pope in Rome .	Refectory	Where choir-monks would eat .
science	Scientific understanding was very basic and superstitious .	Infirmery	Where medical treatment was given to old and sick monks.
wealth of the church	The Catholic Church was incredibly powerful and wealthy .	Dormitory	Where monks would sleep
power of the church	The Catholic Church had great power over people's beliefs .	Chapel	Where monks would pray .
Heaven	Where good Christians would go after death .	Cloisters	Where monks would study and write scripture .
Hell	Where sinner s would go after death .	Tabula	Small wooden board where monks would be allocated jobs for the day.
abbot	The monk in charge of the monastery or abbey.		
lay-brother	An uneducated worker monk.		
Choir-monk	An educated monk.		
3. Founding of Fountains Abbey			
Founded	When a place is built by the group of people for the first time .		
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks .		
Archbishop Thurston	Archbishop Thurstan gave the land for the monks to build Fountains Abbey , and promised to protect them .		
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The monks at St. Mary's church were not keeping to their vows. These 13 monks wanted to leave to set up a stricter monastery. - The river Skell provided fresh water. - The wooded valley provided protection from the wind. - The wooded valley around provided a food source. 		
Where?	Near to Ripon on the banks of the river Skell . Overgrown wooded valley .		
How?	Supported and given protection by Archbishop Thurston of York .		
4. Physical Remains – What can they tell us about daily life?			
Only one fireplace in the main part of the abbey	This tells us that they lived each day simply and strictly , not having many luxuries such as warmth from the fire.		

GCSE HISTORY – Fountains Abbey – 2. How did Fountains Abbey become so powerful and wealthy?

6. Key Overview		Result?	Many problems caused Fountains Abbey to reduce significantly in size and wealth in the 1300s.
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks in wood .		
1135	Fountains Abbey is built in stone .		
1539	Fountains Abbey is closed by Henry VIII .		
1986	Fountains Abbey became a World Heritage Site for tourists.		
Chapel of Nine Altars	An inspiring chapel which would have been spectacular . Only one other abbey in England had one.		
7. How and why did Fountains Abbey expand by 1300?		9. Economic recovery of Fountains Abbey	
1135	Construction in stone began. Original church is made of wood . Wood is a weak material susceptible to fire and rotting .	Leasing land	Fountains Abbey struggled for lay-brothers and so leased the land to tenant farmers.
By 1146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The church into stone for the first time in 1135. - Cloister built 	Hired farm workers	Fountains Abbey struggled for lay-brothers and so hired farm workers to work the land.
By 1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built chapter house - Built guest house - Built refectory for Choir-monks - Built cellarium for lay-brothers to eat and storage. - Built dormitories for all monks - Built kitchen - Built warming room - Built muniment room 	Changes to the abbot's lodgings	Additional fireplaces, large windows and a private walkway were built in the abbot's lodgings .
Muniment room	The muniment room was used to store valuable items . It was directly above the warming room. King John possibly used the muniment room at Fountains Abbey to store royal valuables.	By 1535	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By 1535, Fountains Abbey had a taxable income of around £1m in today's money, making it the richest monastery in England. - By 1535, there were more than 100 labourers working at Fountains Abbey.
By 1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built Chapel of Nine Altars - Built infirmary - Expanded the guest house and Abbot's Lodgings 	Huby's Tower	In 1497 Abbot Huby had a huge tower built, and named it Huby's Tower .
Why did it expand so rapidly?	Fountains Abbey expanded due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land or money given by wealthy people for prayers. - Huge demand for English sheep wool. Fountains Abbey owned many granges and 10,000 sheep and produced wool to sell on a large scale. These factors meant Fountains Abbey had lots of money to expand.	10. How typical was Fountains Abbey?	
		Typical	Something that follows the pattern or is similar to others.
		Not typical	Something that does not follow the pattern and is not similar to others.
		Reasons Fountains Abbey is typical:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cistercian monasteries were typically built away from people where they could be fully devoted to God. - Monasteries in rural areas typically built in a protected place close to a fresh water source. - Fountains Abbey is built with the four key elements of a Cistercian monastery – dormitory, refectory, chapel and cloisters.
		Reasons Fountains Abbey is not typical:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapel of Nine Altars was a very unique feature. Only one other in England. - Extravagant architecture and expansion e.g. Huby's Tower - Scale of wealth and granges owned is far more than any other monastery or abbey.
8. Fountains Abbey, 1300-1500?			
At its peak	By 1300 , Fountains Abbey was at the peak of its size and wealth .		
Problem 1: 1310s	The granges were ruined by Scottish raiders , and the Abbey was taken over by Scottish raiders in 1318 .		
Problem 2: 1310s	Famine across England meant that there were less lay brothers to work the land.		
Problem 3: 1348	The Black Death ravaged England which reduced the lay-brothers from 200 in 1180 to 10 in 1381 .		

GCSE HISTORY – Fountains Abbey – 3. Dissolution of Fountains Abbey in the 16th century

11. Key Overview	
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks in wood.
1135	Fountains Abbey is built in stone.
1539	Fountains Abbey is closed by Henry VIII.
1986	Fountains Abbey became a World Heritage Site for tourists.
Dissolution	Ending or closing something permanently.
The Reformation	The start of Protestantism in England by Henry VIII who ' Broke from Rome ' in 1534 and started the Church of England.
Turning point	A particularly important or notable moment in history.

12. Dissolution at Fountains Abbey	
Henry VIII	Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of all monasteries after he broke away from the Roman Catholic church.
Abbot Thirsk	The abbot at Fountains Abbey when the inspectors arrived.
Marmaduke Bradley	He became the abbot in 1536 after the resignation of Abbot Thirsk . He was supportive of the closure – only to benefit himself!
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wealth to be taken from the monasteries in terms of valuables and land. - Heavily associated with Catholicism - Destruction of Catholic items - Abbots pledged allegiance to the Pope, not the King.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspectors were sent to the abbey. - Abbot Thirsk was accused of keeping prostitutes and wasting timber. He was forced to resign. - Marmaduke Bradley made Abbot who would do as the King wished.
Closed in 1539	In 1539 Abbot Bradley signed the surrender papers and Fountains Abbey was closed.

13. What happened after the dissolution of Fountains Abbey?	
Purchased by Gresham	Fountains Abbey was bought by Sir Richard Gresham in 1540 as an investment .
Damaged the buildings	Gresham was instructed to make the building uninhabitable for monks in the future. Anything of value such as lead, wood or glass was stripped and sold .
Fountains was not completely destroyed	Fountains Abbey was not knocked down entirely as Gresham bought it as an investment, not to build a house on.
Purchase in 1597	Fountains Abbey was purchased by Stephen Proctor in 1597 .
Using the stone of the infirmary	Stephen Proctor dismantled the whole infirmary and used the stone to build himself a home next to Fountains Abbey. The home was called Fountains Hall .

GCSE HISTORY – Fountains Abbey – 4. 17th and 18th century

14. Key Overview	
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks in wood .
1135	Fountains Abbey is built in stone .
1539	Fountains Abbey is closed by Henry VIII .
1986	Fountains Abbey became a World Heritage Site for tourists.
Stephen Proctor	Stephen Proctor purchased Fountains Abbey in 1597

15. Fountains Abbey in the 1600s	
Fountains Hall	Fountains Hall was completed by Stephen Proctor in 1611 . The abbey however was left alone to rot and become overgrown .
After Proctors death	After Stephen Proctors death Fountains Hall was inherited by his relatives, but the abbey continued to be disused .
Aislabie's vision	In 1699, John Aislabie owned the Studley Royal Estate next to Fountains Abbey and Hall. He wanted to purchase Fountains Abbey , but he could not .

16. Fountains Abbey in the 1700s	
1716	In 1716 John Aislabie began to build a landscaped garden at Studley Royal Estate .
'Surprise View'	Within his landscaped garden he cut away trees to create a ' surprise view ' which was dug out to create a beautiful view of Fountains Abbey from his Studley Royal Estate.
Purpose of the abbey at this point	The purpose of Fountains Abbey in the 1700s was to be a beautiful view from a distance .
1767	William Aislabie , son of John Aislabie, managed to buy Fountains Abbey in 1767. He joined Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate together .
William Aislabie's alterations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Aislabie wanted to tidy up the abbey and make it attractive for his guests. - He ensured no ruins would collapse and made it safe for his visitors. - He covered the Abbot's lodgings with stonework. - He created level surfaces for lawns and flowerbeds. - He built a viewing platform using stonework from the Chapel of Nine Altars so that people could get a view of the church.

GCSE HISTORY – Fountains Abbey – 5. Last 200 years at Fountains Abbey

17. Key Overview	
1132	Fountains Abbey is built by 13 monks in wood.
1135	Fountains Abbey is built in stone.
1539	Fountains Abbey is closed by Henry VIII.
1824	Opens to the public to visit for the first time.
1986	Fountains Abbey became a World Heritage Site for tourists.
National Trust	The current charity that owns and preserves the site.

18. Fountains Abbey in the 1800s	
Romantic Movement	Many artists from the Romantic Movement used Fountains Abbey as their inspiration for paintings in the early 1800s. e.g. J Turner
1824	Fountains Abbey opens to the public to visit for the first time.
1848	Railways come to Ripon which leads to a boom in tourism.
Archeologists	Archaeologists begin to study and excavate the abbey in the 1850s.

19. Fountains Abbey in the 1900s and 2000s	
1983	The National Trust purchases Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate. It is open as a tourist site.
UNESCO Status – 1987	In 1987 the site becomes a World Heritage Site for tourists.
Strictly controlled visitors	As a UNESCO World Heritage Site the number of visitors is strictly controlled to preserve the site.
1767	William Aislabie , son of John Aislabie, managed to buy Fountains Abbey in 1767. He joined Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate together.
Diversifying activities in 21 st century	The National Trust are diversifying activities at the site to attract more people to the site. E.G. Easter Egg hunts, garden tours, craft societies, art exhibitions
500,000 visitors per year	Averaging 500,000 visitors per year in the 21st century.
Swanley Grange	Swanley Grange is used as an education centre for school visits.
Physical features for tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gift shop - Education centre - Toilets - Car parks - Tour guides