

The Great Wall of China



Could a Wall Protect an Empire?

Make a first claim. Which visible detail shapes it?

Grades 6-7 • Jinshanling, Hebei. Ming-period site, photographed in 2009.

**60-MINUTE CORE
LESSON**

01 China History Studio v2.3

Look closely

Point to two clues.

What question do they raise?

SEE

A tower, a path, steep ground...

ASK

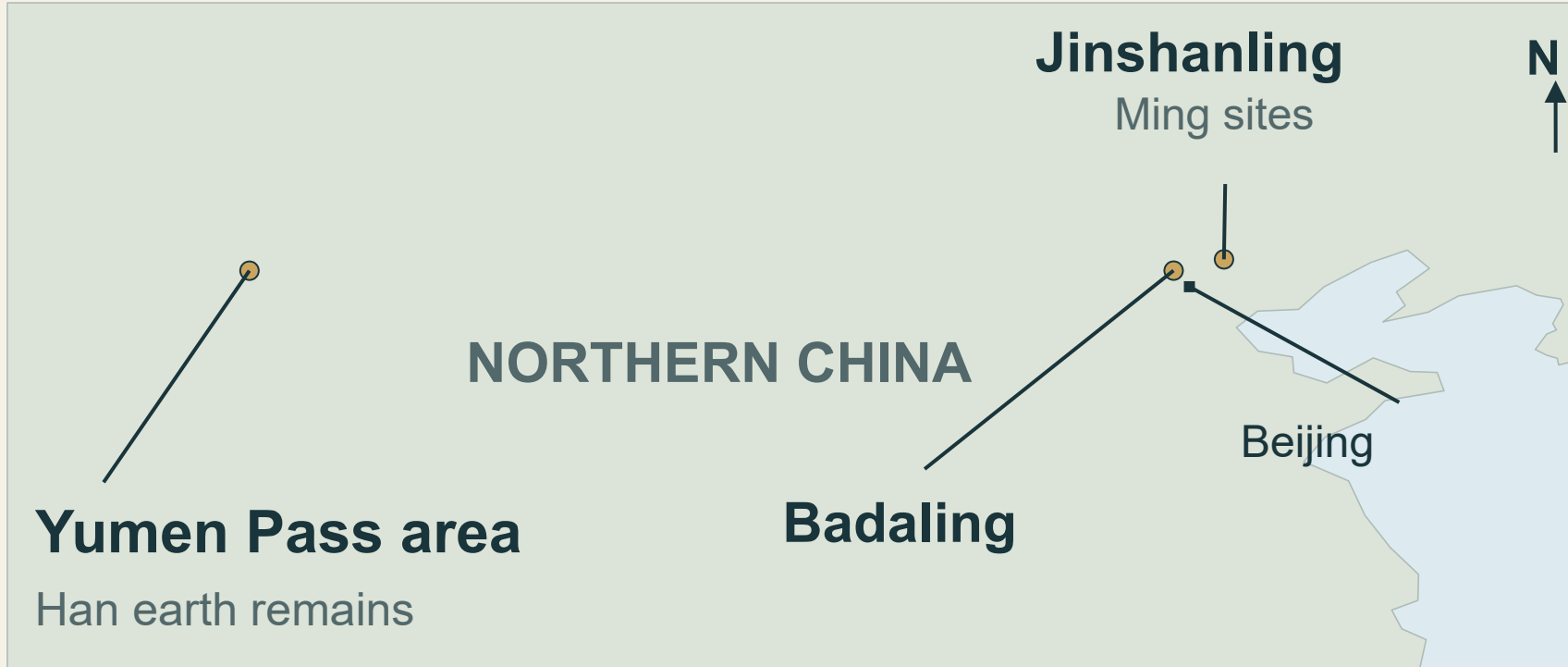
Who watched? What could block a warning?

Modern photograph; observation can support a question, not prove ancient staffing or success.



Where are the three sites?

Use the world locator, then compare east and west.



EAST ASIA

**Circle the site
farthest west.**

Which two sites are
near Beijing?

Different periods, different remains

Order Qin, Han and Ming from earliest to latest.

1 Qin

221-206 BCE

Earlier defenses

2 Han

206 BCE-220 CE

Yumen Pass earth remains

3 Ming

1368-1644 CE

Badaling and Jinshanling

The Great Wall was built, joined, rebuilt and maintained over many centuries.

Two places, two environments

Compare terrain and visible building material.



YUMEN PASS AREA

Dry ground • layered earth

Material is one clue. Place, date and records matter too.

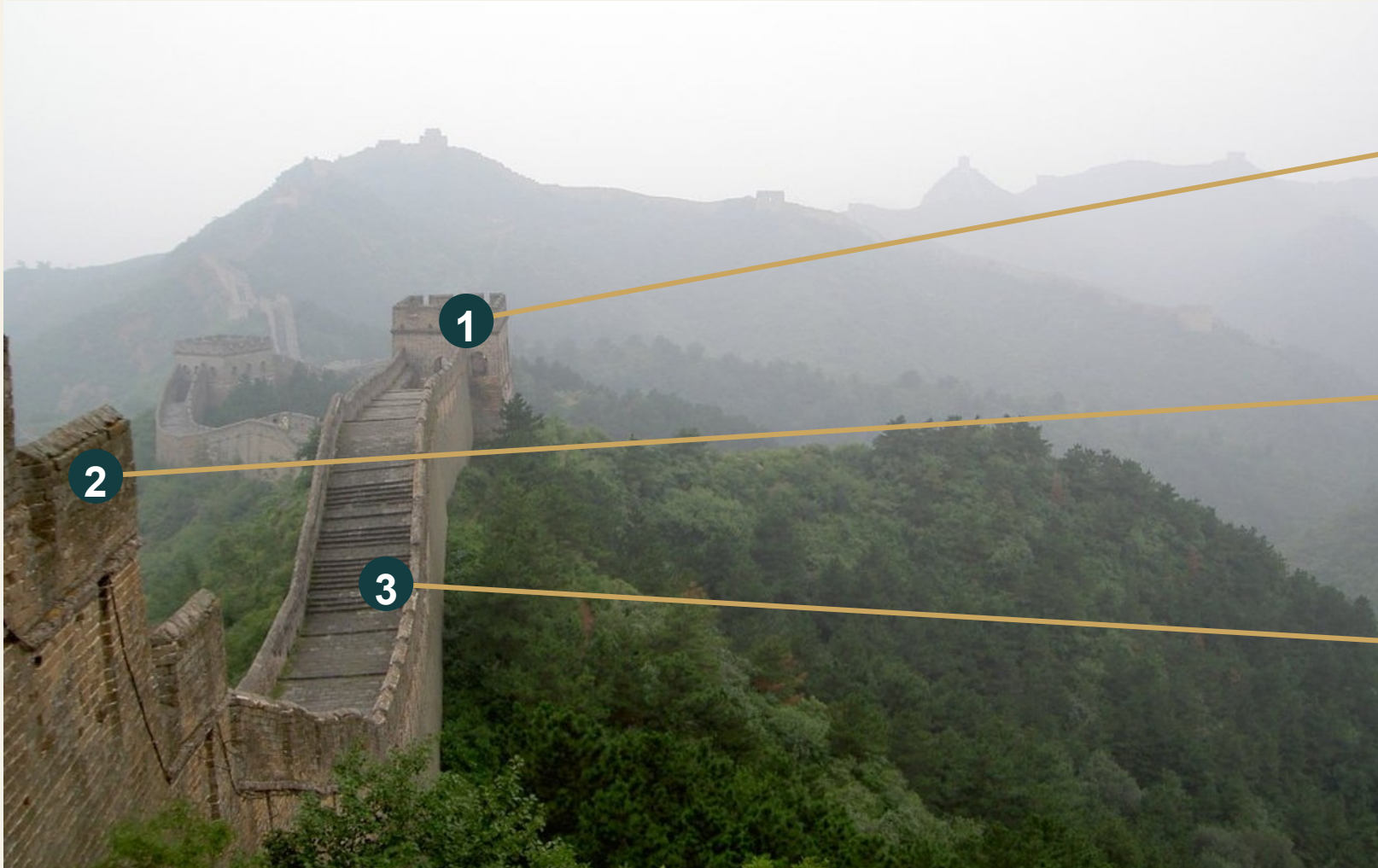


BADALING

Mountain ridges • masonry

What could each part help people do?

Find three numbered features before seeing their names.



1

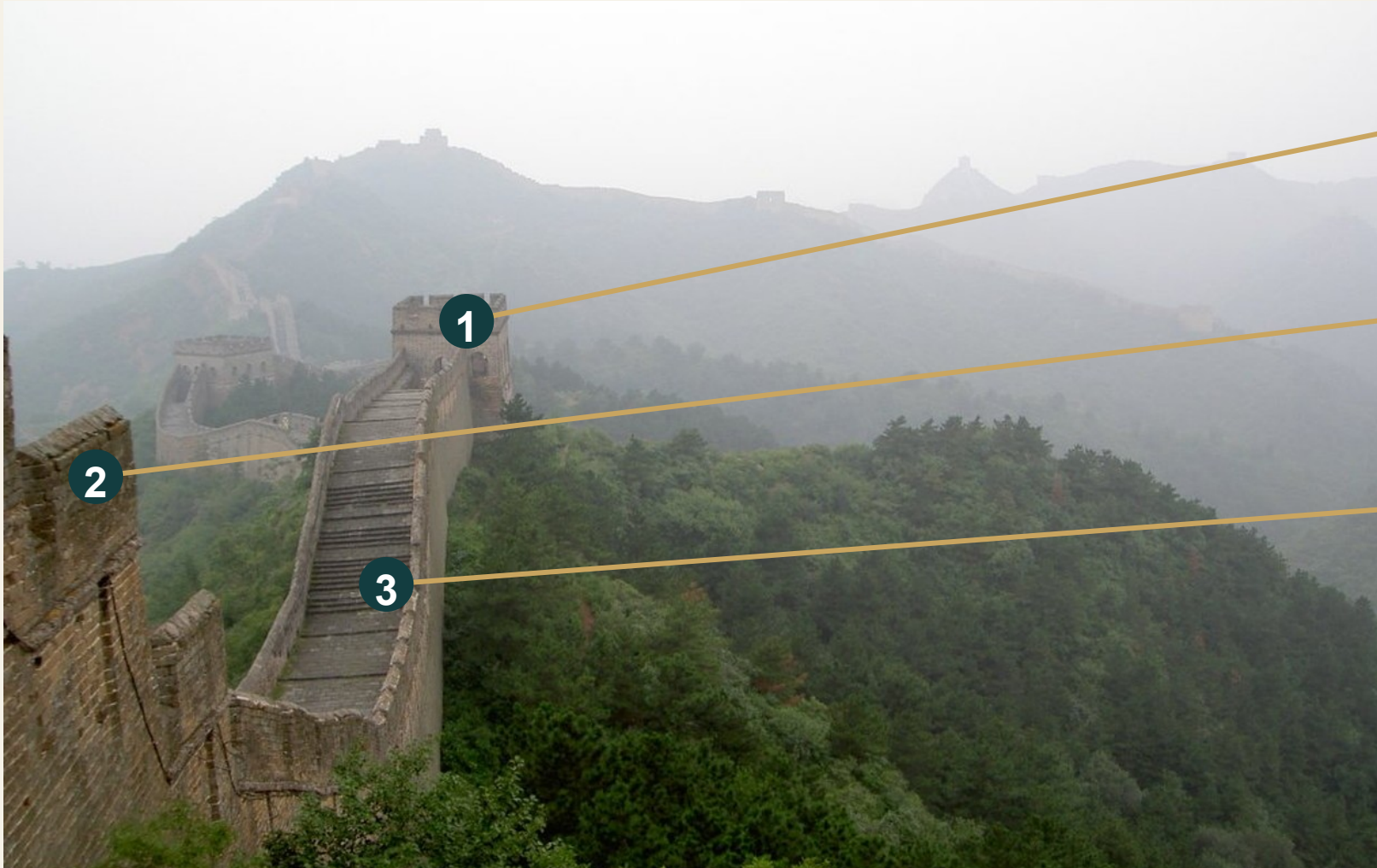
2

3

Point first.
Then write a name.

Tower, battlements and walkway

Use a visible detail to explain one possible function.



1 Tower

2 Battlements

3 Walkway

Battlements:

Raised sections and gaps
that give guards cover.

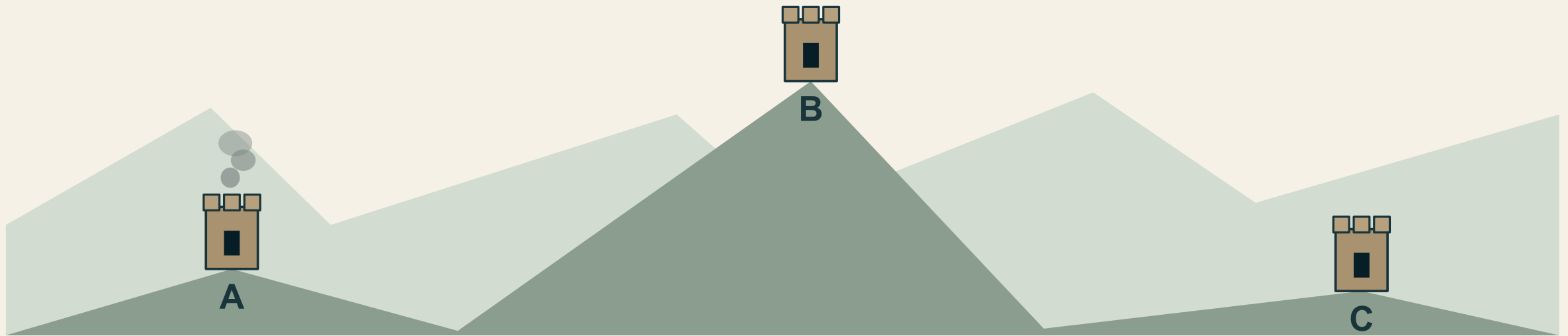
I see _____.

It could help people

_____.

A warning needs a relay

Trace A to B to C in clear air.



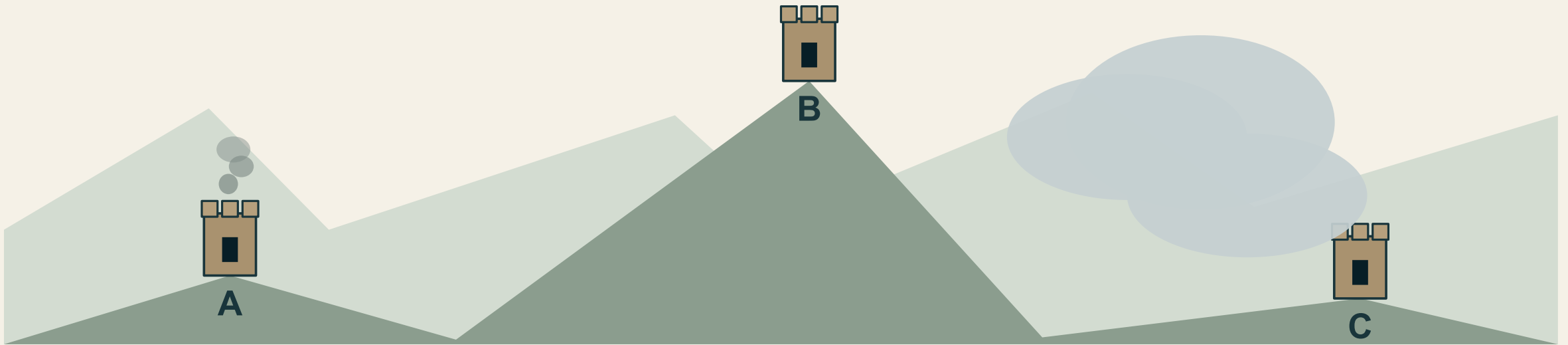
A sees danger.

**B must see A, then send a new
signal.**

C must see B.

Fog changes the route

Mark the link that becomes hard to see.



What could C miss?

What could guards do besides rely on one visible signal?

Who keeps the wall working?



Grain

Transport

Guards

Trace the food's route. What if the road is blocked?

A pass can control movement

Look for travelers, a gate and a guard checking entry.



TRAVELERS

People and goods move toward the gate.

CHECKS

A guard can inspect entry and organize the line.

EXCHANGE

Movement and trade do not guarantee peace.

Two short research notes

Underline one detail that helps explain each picture.



SUPPLIES

Ming troops depended on grain that had to be produced, delivered, stored and distributed.

A road and carriers mattered as well as the wall.



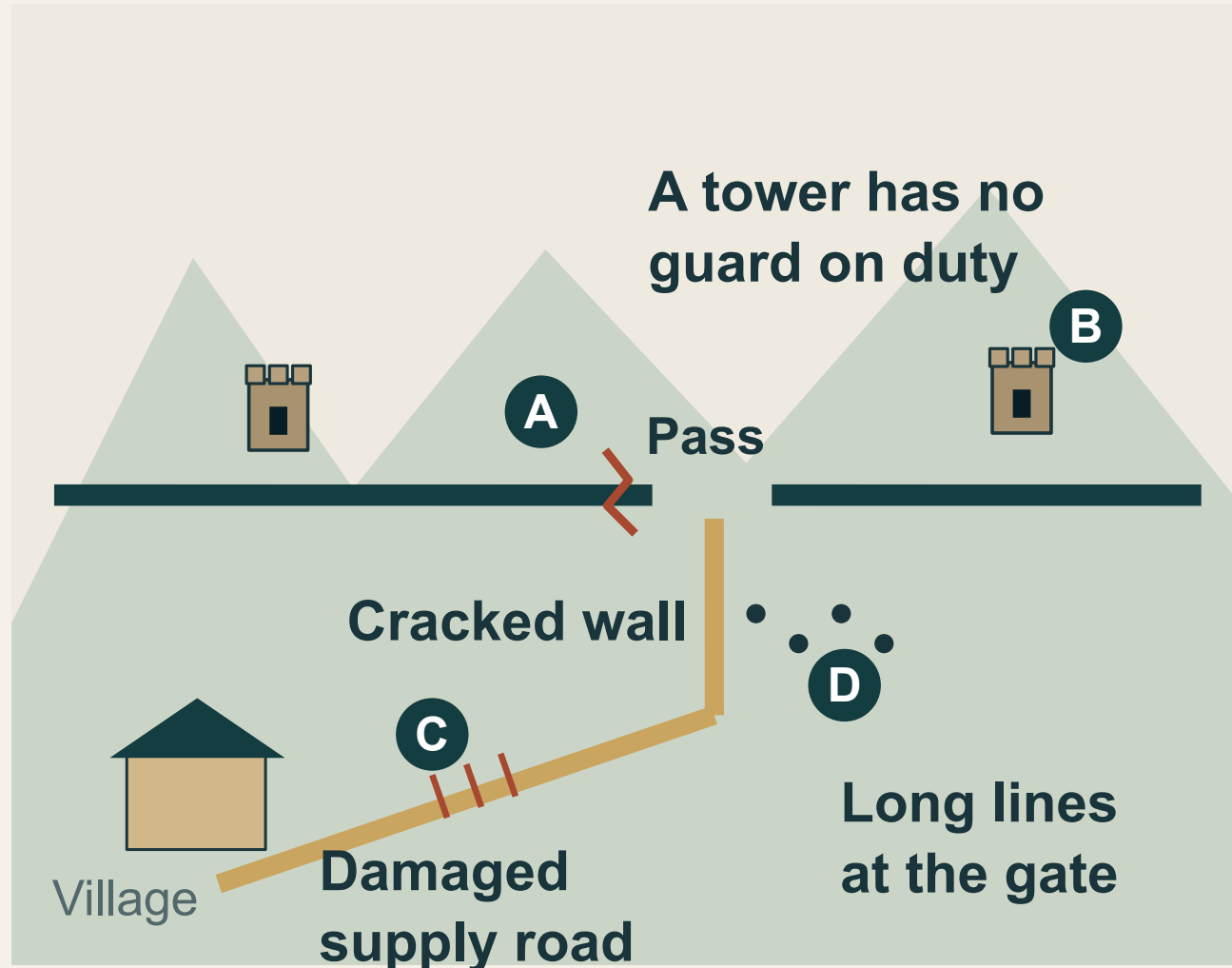
MOVEMENT AND EXCHANGE

Garrisons could supervise markets and movement at the border.

Exchange could matter, but it did not ensure peace.

Four problems at one fictional post

First identify the problem at A, B, C and D.



ALREADY IN PLACE

Walls and two towers
Guards and basic food
A crossing near a village

ASK

Which problem affects repair, watching, supplies or movement?

Four possible improvements

Each action has one direct effect.



A Repair the damaged wall

Close a weak section.



B Put guards on watch

Spot danger and send a warning.



C Fix the supply road

Help food and equipment reach the fort.

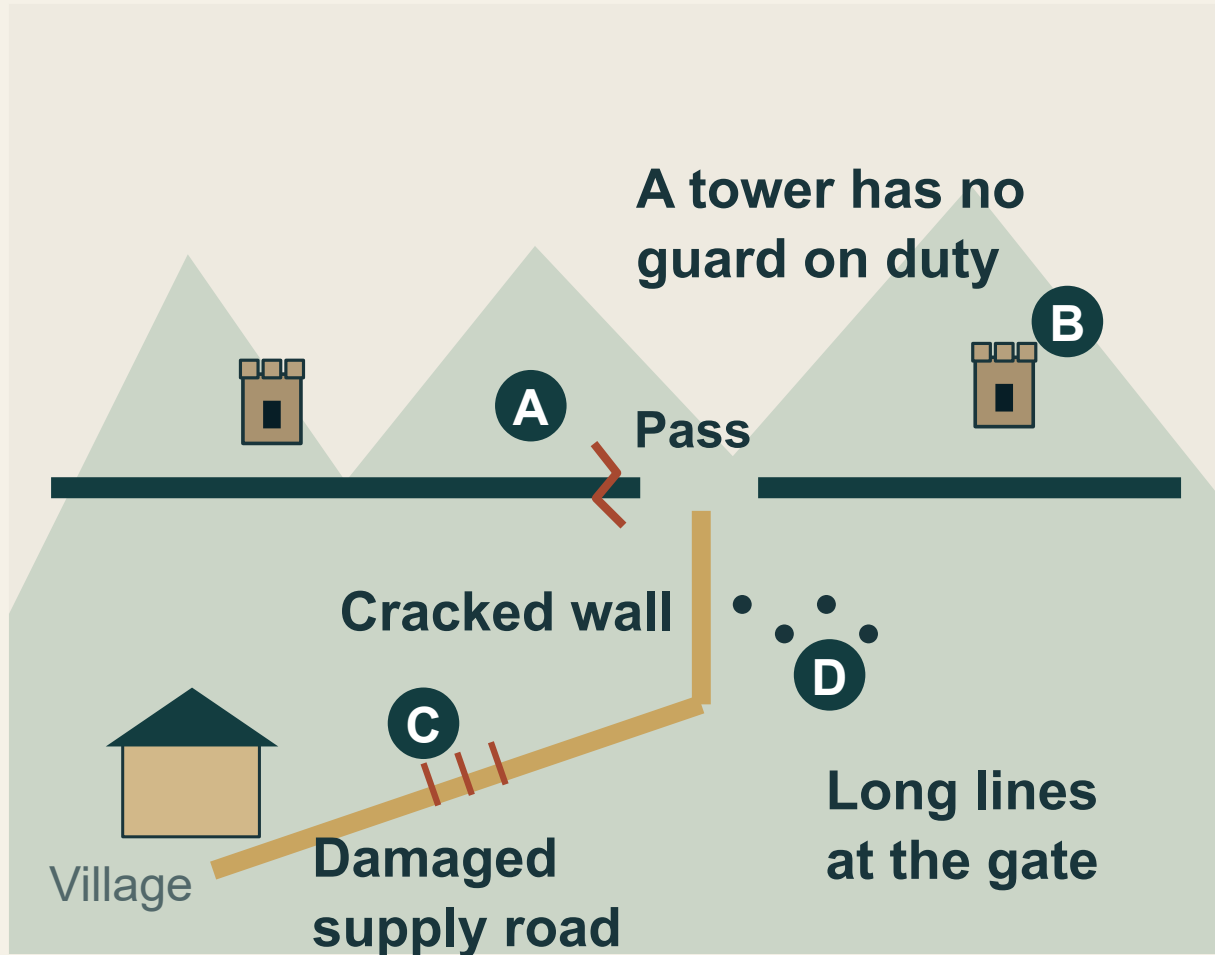


D Organize the crossing

Make movement easier to check.

Choose two improvements

Use two specific details. Name one remaining risk.



YOUR GROUP PLAN

- 1 **Circle two different letters.**
- 2 Use two details to explain your choices.
- 3 What risk remains?

All six pairs can make sense with evidence.

Report and compare

Listen for a choice, a reason and a remaining risk.

1

Name the two choices.

2

Give two lesson details.

3

Name one remaining risk.

Compare: Did another group solve a different problem?

Could a Wall Protect an Empire?

WATCH

MOVE

WARN

SUPPLY

A strong answer explains what a wall could help people do — and what else it still needed.

Turn and say your claim before you write.

Write your own answer

Use two details and explain one limit.

1 Make a claim

The wall could / could not / could sometimes...

2 Use two details

A photograph, map, signal model, supply scene or research note

3 Explain the link

Show how each detail supports your claim.

4 Name a limit

Explain why the wall alone could not guarantee safety.

Write 4-5 sentences on your handout. This is your own answer.

Share one sentence, then revise

Make your answer more specific.

Does your answer...

- ☐ state your judgment?
- ☐ name two lesson details?
- ☐ explain how they support the claim?
- ☐ name one limit?

Add or change one sentence before you stop.

Exit check

Complete the exit check on your handout.



1

**Name one visible feature.
What could it help people do?**

2

**Put these in order from earliest to
latest:
Han Ming Qin**

One last line: The wall alone could not guarantee safety because

_____.