

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is an **ancient monument** that is located on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, Southern England. The United Nations declared it a World Heritage Site in 1986.

Stonehenge was built in three phases, beginning over 5,000 years ago. About 3100 bc, several logs were placed on end in a circle and surrounded by a wide **ditch**. Archeologists believe the ditch was dug using animal antlers.

About 2500 bc, it was rebuilt with stones, called bluestones, from South Wales, over 245 miles away. These stones, each weighing 4 to 5 tons, were **likely** dragged to the sea, placed on large **rafts**, and **floated** down the coast and then upriver. From there, they were dragged overland to Salisbury Plain.

About 2300 bc, the bluestones were rearranged and even bigger stones, some weighing up to 45 tons, were brought from 20 miles away. Thirty massive sandstones, each about 13 feet high, were stood on end about 3 to 4 feet apart in a large circle. Heavy rectangular stones were placed on top of them and fitted together using woodworking methods. This continuous circle of stone around the top makes Stonehenge special.

Modern scientists believe that three different groups of prehistoric people built Stonehenge. It was a tremendous engineering **achievement**, and thousands of people would have worked on it.

No one knows why Stonehenge was built on Salisbury Plain or for what purpose. It may have been a **temple**, a place to watch the movement of the sun and stars, a **burial** place for high-ranking people, or all three. Hundreds of burial **mounds** surround it.

Today, only about half of the **original** monument exists. In later centuries, many of the stones were used to build homes or roads. People continued to **chip** off parts of the stones until into the 1970s. To stop the **damage**, since 1978, Stonehenge can only be viewed from a distance.

Pre-Reading Warm Up Questions ☀

1. Do you know where Stonehenge is located?
2. Look at the picture of Stonehenge below. What do you think it was built for?
3. How do you think the stones in Stonehenge were moved to the area?
4. Do you know what an archeologist does?
5. What is a World Heritage Site?



COMPREHENSION 📖

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Stonehenge was built in three phases over a period of about 800 years.
2. Wood was used to build the circle in the first phase.
3. In the second phase, stones from the nearby area were used.
4. Stonehenge may have been a place for people to pray.
5. Many of the original stones have been removed.

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. What is Stonehenge?
2. Briefly describe the three phases in the building of Stonehenge.
3. How were the bluestones of South Wales transported to Salisbury Plain?
4. Describe Stonehenge in the third phase.
5. Why was Stonehenge built?
6. What happened to many of the original stones?
7. Why can Stonehenge only be viewed from a distance now?



VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning to the underlined words in the following sentences.

1. Stonehenge was built in three phases.
 a) years b) stages c) places
2. Several logs were placed on end in a circle.
 a) stones b) temples c) cut pieces of trees
3. A ditch was dug using animal antlers.
 a) feet b) horns c) skins
4. The stones, each weighing 4 to 5 tons, were dragged to the sea.
 a) pulled along b) carried c) sailed
5. Thirty massive sandstones, each about 13 feet high, were stood on end in a large circle.
 a) bluestone b) monument c) huge
6. Thirty massive sandstones were stood on end in a large circle.
 a) placed flat down b) placed upright c) cut

B. Match the words on the left with correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. ancient | a) first or earliest |
| _____ 2. monument | b) a place used for the worship of a god |
| _____ 3. ditch | c) harm or injury that causes loss of value |
| _____ 4. likely | d) from long ago; very old |
| _____ 5. raft | e) probably |
| _____ 6. float | f) placing in the ground |
| _____ 7. achievement | g) cut or break a piece off |
| _____ 8. temple | h) a narrow channel dug in the ground |
| _____ 9. burial | i) a pile of earth; a small hill |
| _____ 10. mound | j) a flat structure for moving things on water |
| _____ 11. original | k) something done very well |
| _____ 12. chip | l) move on water |
| _____ 13. damage | m) a building, structure, or statue built in memory of something or someone |

DISCUSS

1. Why do people think that Stonehenge is a tremendous engineering achievement?
2. Do you think people should only be allowed to view Stonehenge from a distance or do you think there might be another way to stop the damage to the site?
3. What other tremendous engineering achievements took place in ancient times? Describe some of these.
4. The article gives three possible reasons why Stonehenge was built. Can you think of any other explanations for this ancient monument?

ANSWER KEY

Please note: The reading for this topic is also available in full-page format at the end of the lesson (page 4).

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- 1-5. individual answers (and)
4. An archeologist studies past human life and remains of prehistoric times.
5. A World Heritage Site is chosen by the United Nations as a place with outstanding value to humanity. The United Nations tries to protect and preserve places of cultural heritage and natural importance. There are over 800 such sites around the world.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**A. True or False**

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T

B. Written Answers

1. Stonehenge, an ancient monument located on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, Southern England, is a World Heritage Site.
2. In the first phase, several logs were placed on end in a circle and surrounded by a wide ditch. In the second phase, the logs were replaced with huge bluestones from South Wales. In the third phase, the bluestones were rearranged and even larger stones were added.
3. The bluestones were dragged to the sea, placed on large rafts, floated down the coast and upriver, and then dragged overland.
4. In the third phase, thirty huge stones, each about 13 feet high, were stood on end about three or four feet apart in a circle. Heavy rectangular stones were placed on top and fitted together in a continuous circle of stone around the top.
5. Stonehenge may have been built as a temple, a place to watch the sun and the stars, or a burial place.
6. Many of the original stones were used to build homes or roads.
7. Over the years, people continued to damage the monument by removing or chipping off pieces of the stones, so now visitors must view it from a distance.

VOCABULARY REVIEW**A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning**

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. b

B. Matching

1. d 2. m 3. h 4. e 5. j 6. l 7. k 8. b
9. f 10. i 11. a 12. g 13. c

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