

A Guide to Stonehenge

Stonehenge is one of the most famous landmarks in the world. It is also one of the world's biggest mysteries. Around 800,000 tourists visit it every year. It is a man-made circle of stones located in Wiltshire, in England. Experts believe that it is around 5,000 years old and that it took over 1,000 years to build.

Stonehenge is made up of 83 stones in total. The stones are arranged in a horseshoe shape. The blue stones make up the inner circle. The larger 'sarsen' stones form the outer circle.

Nobody knows why or how Stonehenge was built. The stones are so heavy that it is also unclear how people were able to transport them without the machines we have today. The heaviest stones weigh as much as four African elephants!

Another mystery is that the stones come from far away. For example, the bluestones are thought to come from a part of Wales that is hundreds of kilometres away from Stonehenge. Experts believe that they must have been dragged on land or even transported on rafts over water.

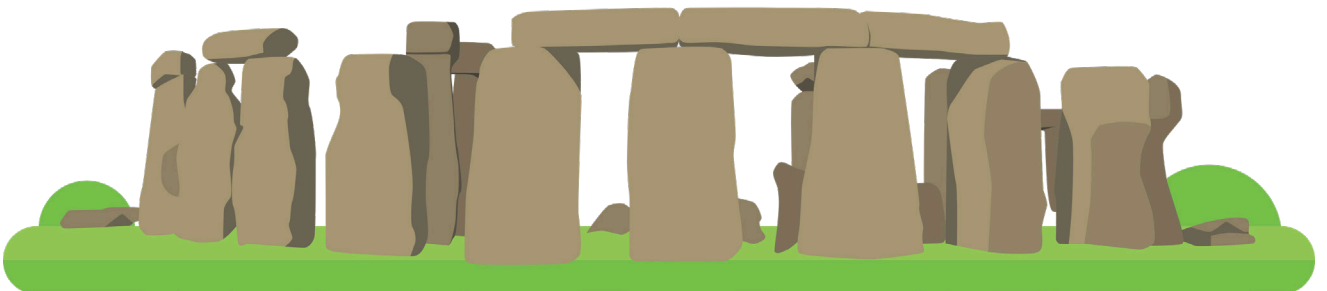
It is unclear exactly why Stonehenge was built. Some experts believe that Stonehenge may have been used as a calendar.

On the longest day of the year, the sun always rises over one of the large stones. The sun also always sets over the same stone on the shortest day of the year. Stonehenge may have been used as a place to celebrate the changing seasons.

One thing that we know for certain is that Stonehenge was used as a cemetery. Roughly 200 people were buried on the site.



Today, Stonehenge is a 'World Heritage Site'. This means that it is protected by law. This protection is important so that the site can be enjoyed and marvelled at for many years to come.



Questions

03

- 1 How many tourists visit Stonehenge each year? (tick)

- ☐ around 8,000
☐ around 5,000
☐ around 1,000
☐ around 800,000

- 2 How old do experts think that Stonehenge is?
-

- 3 Which fact about Stonehenge is true? (tick)

- ☐ It is located in Wales.
☐ It is very popular with tourists.
☐ It was built 1000 years ago.
☐ It took around 5000 years to build.

- 4 How many stones make up Stonehenge?
-

- 5 What are the names of the stones found in the inner circle? (tick)

- ☐ Blue stones
☐ Sarsen stones
☐ Henge stones
☐ Horseshoe stones

6 Why does the author compare the weight of the stones to African elephants? (tick)

- ☐ The stones are the same height as four elephants.
- ☐ No one knows exactly how much the stones weigh so they guessed that they would be as heavy as four elephants.
- ☐ Most people can imagine the weight of African elephants so it helps the reader to understand how heavy the stones are.
- ☐ African elephants are the author's favourite animals.

7 Where did the bluestones come from?

8 How were the blue stones transported over water? (tick)

- ☐ in submarines
- ☐ over bridges
- ☐ in ships
- ☐ on rafts

9 Which statement is certainly true? (tick)

- ☐ Stonehenge was used as a calendar.
- ☐ Experts know exactly why Stonehenge was built.
- ☐ On the longest day of the year, the sun always rises over one of the large stones.
- ☐ Stonehenge was built to celebrate the changing seasons.

10 What does it mean to marvel at something? (tick)

- ☐ to celebrate something
- ☐ to look at something in wonder and amazement
- ☐ to investigate something
- ☐ to see something from a distance

Score:

Answers

A

- 1 How many tourists visit Stonehenge each year? ☒ around 800,000
- 2 How old do experts think that Stonehenge is? 5000 years
- 3 Which fact about Stonehenge is true? ☒ It is very popular with tourists.
- 4 How many stones make up Stonehenge? 83
- 5 What are the names of the stones found in the inner circle? ☒ Blue stones
- 6 Why does the author compare the weight of the stones to African elephants? ☒ Most people can imagine the weight of African elephants so it helps the reader to understand how heavy the stones are.
- 7 Where did the bluestones come from? Wales
- 8 How were the blue stones transported over water? ☒ on rafts
- 9 Which statement is certainly true? ☒ On the longest day of the year, the sun always rises over one of the large stones.
- 10 What does it mean to marvel at something? ☒ to look at something in wonder and amazement