



A visit to Stonehenge

W

hen the twins get home everyone is waiting for them. Mrs Black is there too. ‘What do you think of our little village?’ she asks.

‘The village is lovely, but some of the people are strange,’ replies Laura.

Mrs Black laughs. ‘I know, I know. Don’t worry about the people. They don’t see many tourists. Not many people come to Stonecross.’

‘Are you ready to go to Stonehenge this afternoon?’ asks Auntie Barbara.

A visit to STONEHENGE

Mrs Black says, 'Ah, you're going to Stonehenge. It's nothing special. A circle of old stones. That's all.'

Stonehenge is near the village of Stonecross. They take the cars and in twenty minutes they are there. Laura suddenly shouts, 'Look, there it is! There it is!' And down in the valley¹ they see Mrs Black's 'circle of old stones'.

'It's spectacular,' says Uncle Stephen.

'It's incredible,' says Mum.

'It's magnificent,' says Aunty Barbara.

'Wow!' says Laura.

'It's not very big!' says Max.

'Shut up Max!' says everyone.

'Andrew, what do you think? Do you like Stonehenge? Andrew...?'

Dad doesn't answer. He is sleeping in the car.

'Andrew! Wake up now!' This time Mum is very angry.

Around the stones there is a fence.² People can't touch them but they can go very near and take photographs.

'Let's get an audio-guide,' suggests Mum. 'You listen and it tells you the story of Stonehenge.'

1. valley :



2. fence :



The Secret of the Stones

Everyone gets an audio-guide and they start to walk around the enormous stone circle. Uncle Stephen walks in the opposite direction and looks at his old book of mysteries. He reads something and then looks at the stones. Then he walks away. He looks at the hills and the trees near the stones. 'Hmmm... three hills around the stones... yes... it is a type of triangle,' he says to himself. Then he looks at the stones again. Uncle Stephen is thinking.

Half an hour later the others return.



A visit to STONEHENGE

‘Stonehenge is fantastic,’ they say, but Uncle Stephen is not listening. He is reading his book again and looking at the stones and the hills around them.

‘Time for something to drink,’ says Mum. They all walk to the small café near the tourist shop. ‘Come on Stephen. Are you coming with us?’

Finally Uncle Stephen puts his book in his bag and follows the others.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KET

1

Choose the correct answer (A, B or C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

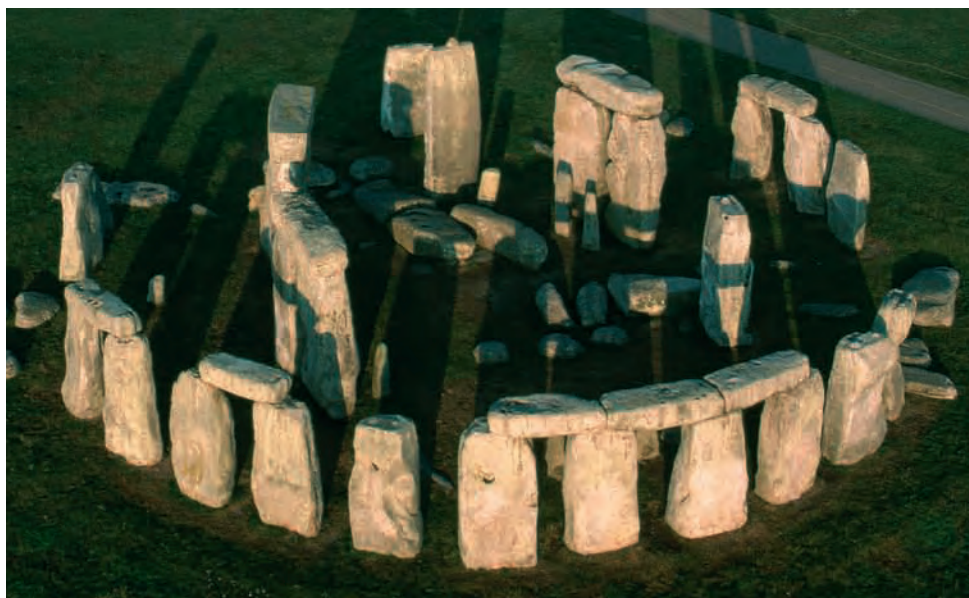
- 0 Mrs Black says the people of Stonecross are strange because
- A ☒ they don't meet many tourists.
 - B ☐ the village is full of strange shops.
 - C ☐ they don't like Laura and Max.
- 1 Stonehenge is
- A ☐ far from Stonecross.
 - B ☐ near Stonecross.
 - C ☐ in Stonecross.
- 2 Mum is angry because
- A ☐ Dad doesn't like Stonehenge.
 - B ☐ Dad is sleeping.
 - C ☐ Stonehenge isn't very big.
- 3 Uncle Stephen
- A ☐ goes with the others.
 - B ☐ stays in the car.
 - C ☐ walks alone.
- 4 Uncle Stephen is looking around because
- A ☐ he likes the view.
 - B ☐ he wants to understand the mystery.
 - C ☐ he isn't interested in the stones.
- 5 Finally they decide to
- A ☐ buy something to drink.
 - B ☐ buy a guide book.
 - C ☐ buy some postcards.

PROJECT ON THE WEB

LET'S GO AND SEE STONEHENGE

Your teacher will give you the correct web-site address. Look at the different 360° views of Stonehenge. What do you think of the monument?

Stonehenge

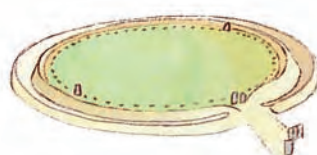


10 Stonehenge is a very old monument in the South of England. We don't know exactly what it is. Is it a temple? Is it an astronomical observatory? Is it from the times of Merlin and King Arthur?

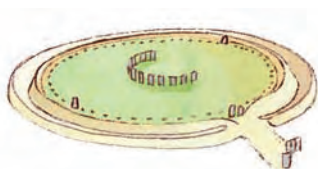
STONEHENGE FACT-FILE

Where: It is near Salisbury in the South of England.

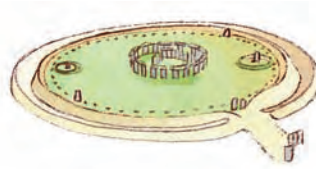
When: No one knows exactly, but there are three construction periods:



1. In 3,000 BC there is a circular ditch with a diameter of around 100 metres.



2. In 2,500 BC there is the original monument. It is made of wood.



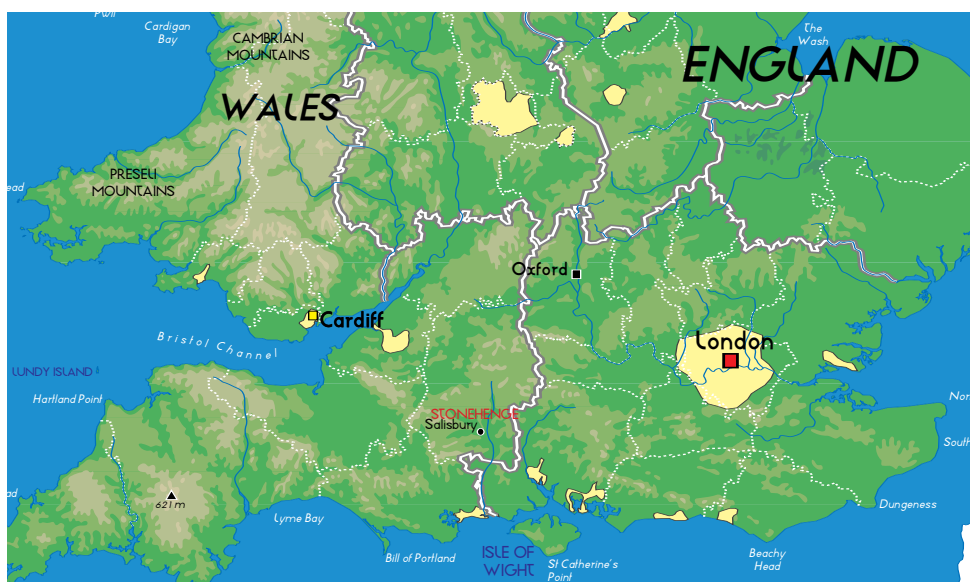
3. Between 2,500 and 1,500 BC people build the stone monument.

Who: There are lots of interesting theories – druids, people from Atlantis, Merlin the magician, aliens – probably primitive British people are the architects.

Why: No one knows but here are some ideas...

- Perhaps people use Stonehenge to study the sky. They want to see the changes in the sun, the moon and the stars. With this information they can understand the seasons and the weather.
- Perhaps Stonehenge is an enormous calendar, an observatory, or a computer.
- Perhaps it is a magic temple to an ancient god... or the tomb of an important king.

How: This is a mystery too. The stones are very big and they are very heavy. Some stones are bluestones from the Preseli Mountains in South Wales, 385 kilometres away. No one knows how the people moved them.



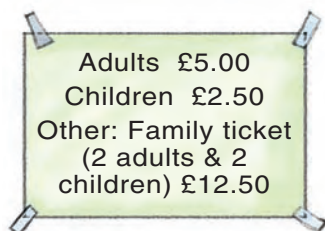
1 Are these sentences true or false? Tick (✓) the correct box.
Correct the false ones.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Stonehenge is in Salisbury. | T | F |
| 2 | No one knows the exact construction date of Stonehenge. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Merlin is a British architect. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Perhaps Stonehenge is a primitive computer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | The stones are not light. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | All the stones come from Wales. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

KET

2 Which notice (A-H) says this (1-5)?

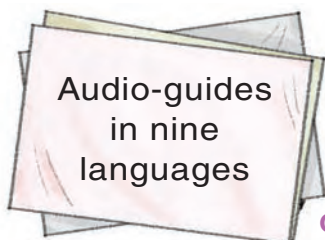
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> You can't visit Stonehenge at Christmas. |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> There is a special price for families. |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> You can eat at Stonehenge. |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Information is not only in English. |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stonehenge closes at different times. |



A



D



G



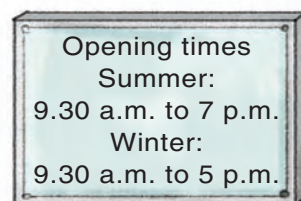
B



E



C



F



H

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Do you know these words? Write the words from the box under each picture.

pin drawer
jewellery thief
diamond ring
brooch key



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.