

Stonehenge Fact Sheet

- Stonehenge is the most well known prehistoric stone monument in the world. It is located in Wiltshire, England, on Salisbury Plain, about 8 miles from Salisbury.
- Some of the stones were brought from Wales, 240 miles away from the site of Stonehenge, and they were dragged over the land by men and oxen and then loaded onto boats that sailed down the coast and up the rivers.
- Archaeologists believe the monument was built between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago, and was either a burial ground or used as a calendar. It is one of 900 stone circles in Britain.
- People started to build Stonehenge in 3000 B.C. but it was only made up of ditches and banks. The stones were placed hundreds of years later. The people who made it used tools made from animal bones and deer antlers to dig and move the earth.
- Almost a million people visit Stonehenge each year, which is now a World Heritage site. Although the monument is several thousands of years old, the standing stones at nearby Avebury are even older.
- Over the centuries some of the stones have been taken for other purposes, such as for building material. Today, there are 79 major stones, and some of them are 18 feet high and weigh up to 40 tons.
- It has been estimated that constructing the huge monument would have taken over 30 million hours of labour. Some of the stones were dragged up to 200 miles to the site.
- It is not known for certain exactly how the larger stones were moved. They may have been sailed up a river on wooden boats, or pulled on primitive sledges made from tree trunks.
- The builders of Stonehenge used extremely advanced mathematical and structural techniques. The circle is in line with the midsummer sunrise, the midwinter sunset and the movements of the moon.
- One legend says that the stones were placed there by the Devil. Another legend says that Merlin the Magician created the huge stone circle.

- Stonehenge was a temple that could also measure time. Every year on Midsummer's Day the rays of the Sun fell directly onto a stone in the middle of the structure, called the Womb Stone, and the stone sparkled.
- In those days people were in danger from diseases, wild animals, the weather and infertility.
- People believed that everything on this Earth, including themselves, were created by Sky Father and Earth Mother. They believed the Sun was the Sky Father. They believed the Womb Stone was the Earth Mother. On midsummer's day when sunlight fell on the Womb Stone in Stonehenge people celebrated the anniversary of the moment they came together and everything was created.

