

## Scientists solve mystery of Stonehenge

6th August, 2018



Scientists say they have uncovered details about who built the 5,000-year-old prehistoric monument Stonehenge. The ancient stones in the southwest of England are famous all over the world. How Stonehenge

was built has been a mystery for thousands of years. A new study shows that the architects and builders of Stonehenge could have come from Wales, which is more than 160 kilometres away. Researchers wrote in the Scientific Reports journal that some human bones found at the site were from the Preseli Mountains in west Wales. The researchers said the oldest human remains discovered so far date back to about 3000 BC, which is over 5,000 years ago.

Stonehenge is a ring of standing monoliths - giant stones. Each standing stone is around four metres high and 2.1 metres wide. They each weigh around 25 tons. Scientists say Stonehenge was first used as a burial mound. The giant monoliths also came from the Preseli Mountains. Scientists are not sure how ancient people transported the giant stones the 160 km to their site in Stonehenge. They now believe the people who are buried at Stonehenge helped transport, position and erect the stones. Researcher John Pouncett said: "People from the Preseli Mountains not only supplied the bluestones used to build the stone circle but moved with the stones and were buried there too."

Sources: [npr.org](http://npr.org) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [theguardian.co.uk](http://theguardian.co.uk)

## Writing

We should spend lots of money on researching ancient history. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

details / prehistoric / monument / ancient / famous / architects / bones / journal / stones / burial mound / weigh / scientists / transport / position / circle / buried

## True / False

- a) Scientists know the names of the people who built Stonehenge. T / F
- b) The ancient stones are in the southeast of England. T / F
- c) Scientists believe Stonehenge's architects are Welsh and not English. T / F
- d) The oldest human remains found at Stonehenge are 3,000 years old. T / F
- e) Each stone at Stonehenge is four metres wide. T / F
- f) Scientists don't know how the stones got from Wales to Stonehenge. T / F
- g) The people who transported the stones may be buried at Stonehenge. T / F
- h) The stones that make up Stonehenge are bluestones. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>uncovered</b>   | a. huge         |
| 2. <b>ancient</b>     | b. puzzle       |
| 3. <b>mystery</b>     | c. provided     |
| 4. <b>found</b>       | d. carried      |
| 5. <b>remains</b>     | e. very old     |
| 6. <b>giant</b>       | f. build        |
| 7. <b>transported</b> | g. bones        |
| 8. <b>erect</b>       | h. exposed      |
| 9. <b>supplied</b>    | i. laid to rest |
| 10. <b>buried</b>     | j. discovered   |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the great modern monuments?
- c) Why can't scientists find out more about Stonehenge?
- d) Which is best, Stonehenge, the Pyramids or Machu Picchu?
- e) What giant monument would you like to be built?
- f) What would it be like to work as an archaeologist?
- g) Where would you like to be buried or cremated?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. details about who built the 5,000-year-old | a. back to about 3000 BC |
| 2. famous all                                 | b. the giant stones      |
| 3. a mystery for                              | c. bones                 |
| 4. human                                      | d. the stones            |
| 5. human remains discovered so far date       | e. over the world        |
| 6. Stonehenge is a ring                       | f. around 25 tons        |
| 7. They each weigh                            | g. bluestones            |
| 8. ancient people transported                 | h. prehistoric monument  |
| 9. transport, position and erect              | i. of standing monoliths |
| 10. supplied the                              | j. thousands of years    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of ancient monuments?
- What ancient monuments are there in your country?
- Are ancient monuments better than modern ones?
- What do you know about Stonehenge?
- Why did ancient people build huge monuments?
- How do you think people moved huge stones so far?
- What do you think life was like 5,000 years ago?
- What can ancient people teach us?

## Spelling

- the 5,000-year-old prehistoric notneumm
- The icatnne stones
- a tyysemr for thousands of years
- the ahrtcciste and builders
- in the Scientific Reports aourljn
- the oldest human reasinm discovered so far
- gtnia stones
- They each giehw around 25 tons
- first used as a ilurab mound
- transport, sioniopt and erect the stones
- uisppdel the bluestones
- used to build the stone clrice

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. a	7. d	8. f	9. c	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Stonehenge

You think Stonehenge is the world's best monument. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their monuments. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal or Statue of Liberty.

### Role B – Eiffel Tower

You think the Eiffel Tower is the world's best monument. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their monuments. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Stonehenge, Taj Mahal or Statue of Liberty.

### Role C – Taj Mahal

You think the Taj Mahal is the world's best monument. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their monuments. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Eiffel Tower, Stonehenge or Statue of Liberty.

### Role D – Statue of Liberty

You think the Statue of Liberty is the world's best monument. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their monuments. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal or Stonehenge.

## Speaking – Monuments

Rank these with your partner. Put the best monuments at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| • The Sphinx | • Leaning Tower of Pisa |
| • Taj Mahal  | • Stonehenge            |
| • Acropolis  | • Statue of Liberty     |
| • Angkor Wat | • Eiffel Tower          |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.