

Class 10 Reading

Read this text and answer the questions at the end.

Stonehenge



Stonehenge is one of the most famous structures in England and has a fascinating history. The prehistoric monument is a circle of stones in the south of England, in Wiltshire. It was started 5000 years ago during the Stone Age, around 3100-3000BC.

Aubrey Holes

Firstly, a circular ditch was dug using picks made from antlers. The central area was about 100 metres wide and there were two entrances. There were 56 pits dug around the circle (called 'Aubrey holes') which were one metre wide and one metre deep.

Bluestones

Secondly, many years later, 82 more stones were added. These came all the way from Preseli Hills in south Wales. They were called bluestones (because they appeared to be slightly blue when wet or broken). The stones, which weighed up to four tonnes each, were transported the 240 miles from south Wales by land and water. These stones were set up in a double circle pattern. During this second stage, the north-eastern entrance was widened and the largest stone, known as the Hell Stone, was added.



Sarsen Stones

Thirdly, about 500 years later, the Sarsen stones were added. They came from the Marlborough Downs, about 25 miles from Stonehenge. The Sarsen stones were huge. They were around 4 metres high and 2 metres wide and weighed up to 30 tonnes. An outer circle was created with stones laid horizontally across the top. In the middle of the circle, more stones were arranged in a horseshoe shape. At the centre was a stone called the Altar Stone. In the final stage of building, the original bluestones were rearranged in the horseshoe and circle shape that can be seen today.

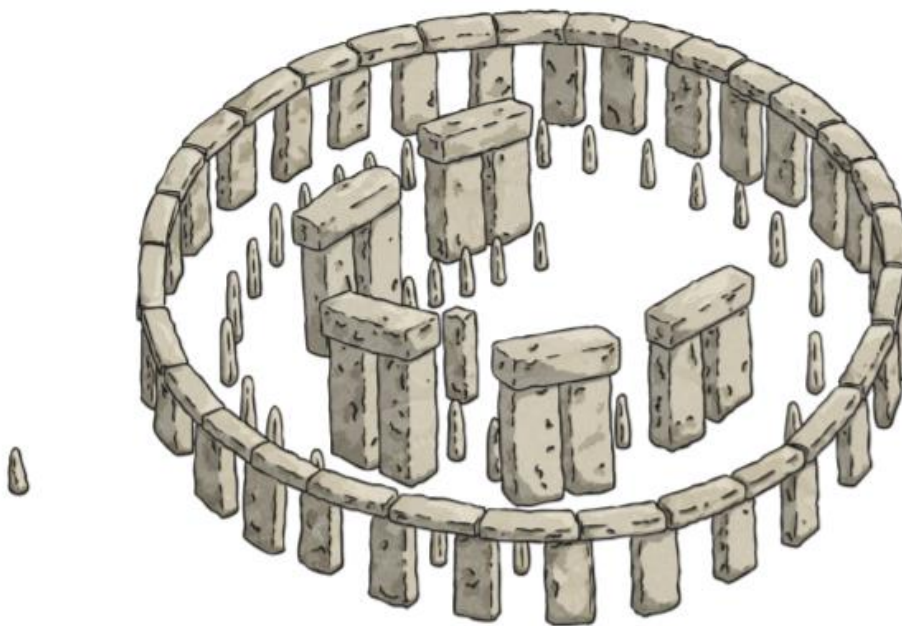
Pictures of axe-heads and daggers were carved on some of the Sarsen stones. These were possibly symbols of power. The stones also had bumps and holes carved into them so that they fit together. They were carefully lined up so that the sunrise could be seen at midsummer and sunset at midwinter at opposite ends of the circle.



The Sarsen stones were incredibly heavy, and it is thought that it took around 600 men to move each massive stone. The stones would have been moved using a combination of rollers, ropes, wooden levers and pulleys.

The Slaughter Stone

One of the stones in Stonehenge is made of sandstone which looks red when it is wet. This is because the iron in the stone reacts with rainwater. It was called the Slaughter Stone by the Victorians who assumed that the red in the stone was blood from sacrifices that were made on it years earlier.



Questions

When answering the questions, remember to underline key words and read around them. Read the sentences the words are in and the sentences before and after if you need to. Think carefully about what the questions are asking you to do. Where there is a choice of answers, check all possible answers before making a decision.

Monday

Read the text and underline any words which you do not understand. Find out the meanings of those words. If you find any too difficult, you can email me.

Tuesday

1. Where in England is Stonehenge?
 - a) Essex
 - b) Northumberland
 - c) Wales
 - d) Wiltshire

2. What were the 56 pits that were dug around the circle in the first stage called?

3. Where did the bluestones come from?
 - a) north Wales
 - b) east Wales
 - c) south Wales
 - d) west Wales

Wednesday

4. What was added to Stonehenge during the third stage of building?

5. Which of the following were carved on some of the Sarsen stones?
 - a) Swords
 - b) Antlers
 - c) Daggers
 - d) Saws

6. At what time of year could the sunrise be seen from Stonehenge?
 - a) Midwinter
 - b) Midspring
 - c) Midautumn
 - d) Midsummer

Thursday

7. Explain how the Sarsen stones were moved.

8. In your own words, explain how the Slaughter Stone got its name.

Friday

Read a text of your choice on Epic! (details below) and work through the quiz at the end.



Class Sign In Instructions

Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

1. Go to www.getepic.com/students
2. Sign in with your class code
3. Select their name and they're in!

iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

1. Click on **"Have an account? Sign In"** then click on **"Students & Educators"**
2. Sign in with your class code
3. Select their name and they're in!