

STONEHENGE



Characteristics

- It is located in Wiltshire, England.
- It is a monument built in the **Neolithic** and Bronze Age**Bronze Age**.
- Stonehenge is a large circle of standing stones.



How was it built?



FIRST STAGE

- The first Stonehenge was a large earthwork probably built around 3100 BC.
- They formed a circle. Archaeologists found cremated human bones, but they were probably from part of a religious ceremony.
- After that, the monument didn't change until 1000 years later.

SECOND STAGE

- It started around 2150 BC. About 82 bluestones from the Preseli mountains in south-west Wales were brought to the site. This journey was nearly 240 miles.
- Once there, the stones were set up in the centre to make an incomplete double circle.

THIRD STAGE

- It started in 2000 BC. The Sarsen stones that they used were probably brought from the Marlborough Downs area near Avebury, about 25 miles north of Stonehenge.
- These were placed in an outer circle. Inside the circle, there were also five trilithons, that still remain today.

FINAL STAGE

- After 1500 BC the bluestones were moved into the horseshoe and circle that we see today.
- Most of the bluestones have been removed or broken.



Possible theories about Stonehenge

- Stonehenge was an astronomical observatory

They could predict eclipses, lunar phases and seasons. Nevertheless, it was possible that it was not the original function because it took more than 1000 years to finish it.

- Stonehenge was a cemetery

Scientists found human bones buried there.

- Stonehenge was a religious temple

People went there because the Druids could give them magic power and cure their illnesses.



Incredible theories

- Stonehenge was built by Apollo's followers who lived in the north of Europe and were documented in Greek mythology.
- Stonehenge was a place where UFOs landed.



- Stonehenge was created in the first years of the XX century to attract tourists.
- Stonehenge was built by the wizard Merlin. He made it himself by raising the stones with his magical power.



Vocabulary:

- *Bluestone* -piedras del Stonehenge traídas de fuera
- *Bronze age* -edad de bronce
- *(to) cremate* -incinerar, cremar
- *Druid* -Druida
- *Horseshoe* -herradura
- *Neolithic* -neolítico
- *Sarsen stone* -piedra arenisca
- *Standing stone* -megalito vertical
- *Trilithon* -estructura de dos piedras verticales (columnas) y una horizontal apoyada en la verticales.
- *UFO* -OVNI (objeto volador no identificado)
- *Wizard Merlin* -El mago Merlín