

STONEHENGE

1 Read the text on Stonehenge and fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

circle • construction • diameter • ground • Ireland • list • monument • mystery • northeast
• place • problem • remains • restore • stones • thirty • travel • wall • weigh

Stonehenge is an ancient (1) on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. It is a group of huge, rough-cut standing (2) For hundreds of years, the great stones gradually fell, or people carried them away, but from the position of many of the stones still in (3) archaeologists can guess what the monument probably looked like originally. An earth (4) about 98 m in diameter surrounded the monument, (5) blocks of sandstone stood in a circle about 30 m in (6) with a continuous circle of smaller blocks which stood on top of them. Inside was a (7) of bluestones¹. They are believed to be from the Prescelly Mountains, located about 400 km away in Wales. The bluestones (8) up to 4 tons each and about 80 stones were used in all. Given the distance they had to (9), this presented quite a transportation (10)

Inside this circle were two horseshoe-shaped sets of stones, one inside the other, opening towards the (11) Archaeological evidence indicates that Stonehenge served as a burial (12) from its earliest beginnings. The dating of the (13) found on the site indicate burials from as early as 3,000 BC. The question of who built Stonehenge is still a (14) today. The legend of King Arthur provides one story of the (15) of Stonehenge. In his History of the Kings of Britain, the 12th century writer Geoffrey of Monmouth tells that Merlin has brought the stones to the Salisbury Plain from (16)

In 1922 the British Government began to (17) Stonehenge. Today Stonehenge is one of the most famous tourist sites in Britain and is on the (18) of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



1. These stones are called “bluestones” because they look blue when wet.