



THE MYSTERY¹ OF STONEHENGE

WIZARDS², GIANTS³, OR ALIENS⁴?

WHAT IS IT?

Stonehenge is one of the most famous and **mysterious**² stone buildings in the world. It is a ring of big, heavy standing stones. It stands in Wiltshire, in England. Stonehenge is very old. The oldest parts are about 4,600 years old. No one knows what it was. There are hundreds of stone rings like it in England, but Stonehenge is the most famous.

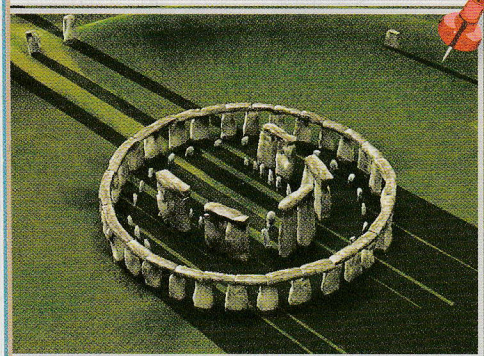
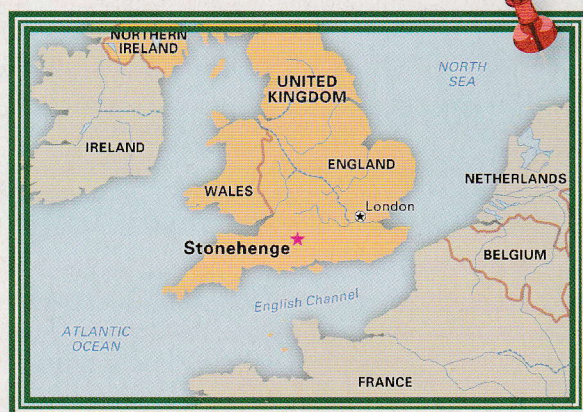


ALIEN

WHY DID PEOPLE BUILD IT?

It's possible that it was a **solar eclipse**⁶ calendar. Or maybe it was a kind of druidic (= keltský kněz) **cathedral**⁷.

Some people believe it was a landing place for UFOs*!



HOW DID PEOPLE BUILD IT?

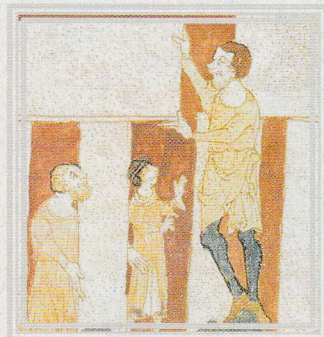
The biggest stones are about 50,000 kg (more than an Airbus plane). The smaller stones are about 2,000 – 4,000 kg (about the same as a large truck). Some of these stones came from Carn Goedog in Wales, about 285 km away!

How did the makers of Stonehenge move these big stones?

There are a lot of **theories**⁸:

- A book from the 1100s says that a wizard made Stonehenge with magic. (*Wingardium leviosa**)
- A famous “ufologist”, Erich von Däniken, says that aliens made Stonehenge.
- A **folk tale**⁹ says that the Devil carried the stones from Ireland; in a **handkerchief**¹⁰.

HOW DO YOU THINK THEY DID IT?



TASK

Listen to the story about Merlin and Stonehenge. Put the sentences in order they happened. Write the numbers in the boxes.

- 15,000 men couldn't move the stones because they were too heavy.
- Merlin used magic to take the stones from Ireland to England.
- Giants brought the stones from Africa.
- There was a war between the British and the Saxons.
- King Arthur's father wanted to build something special.

*GLOSSARY

UFO - Unidentified Flying Object = An alien spaceship (= kosmická loď). It is said as three separate letters: UFO [ˌjuː ef əʊ].

Wingardium leviosa - Harry Potter's levitation spell (= kouzlo)

VOCABULARY

- mystery** ['mɪstri] záhada, tajemství
- wizard** ['wɪzəd] kouzelník, čaroděj
- giant** ['dʒaɪənt] obr
- alien** ['eɪliən] mimozemšťan
- mysterious** [mɪ'stɪəriəs] záhadný, tajemný
- solar eclipse** ['səʊləɪ ɪ'klɪps] zatmění Slunce
- cathedral** [kə'thiːdrəl] katedrála, chrám
- theory** ['θiəri] teorie, domněnka
- folk tale** ['fəʊk,teɪl] pověst, pohádka
- handkerchief** ['hæŋkətʃɪːf] kapesník, šátek