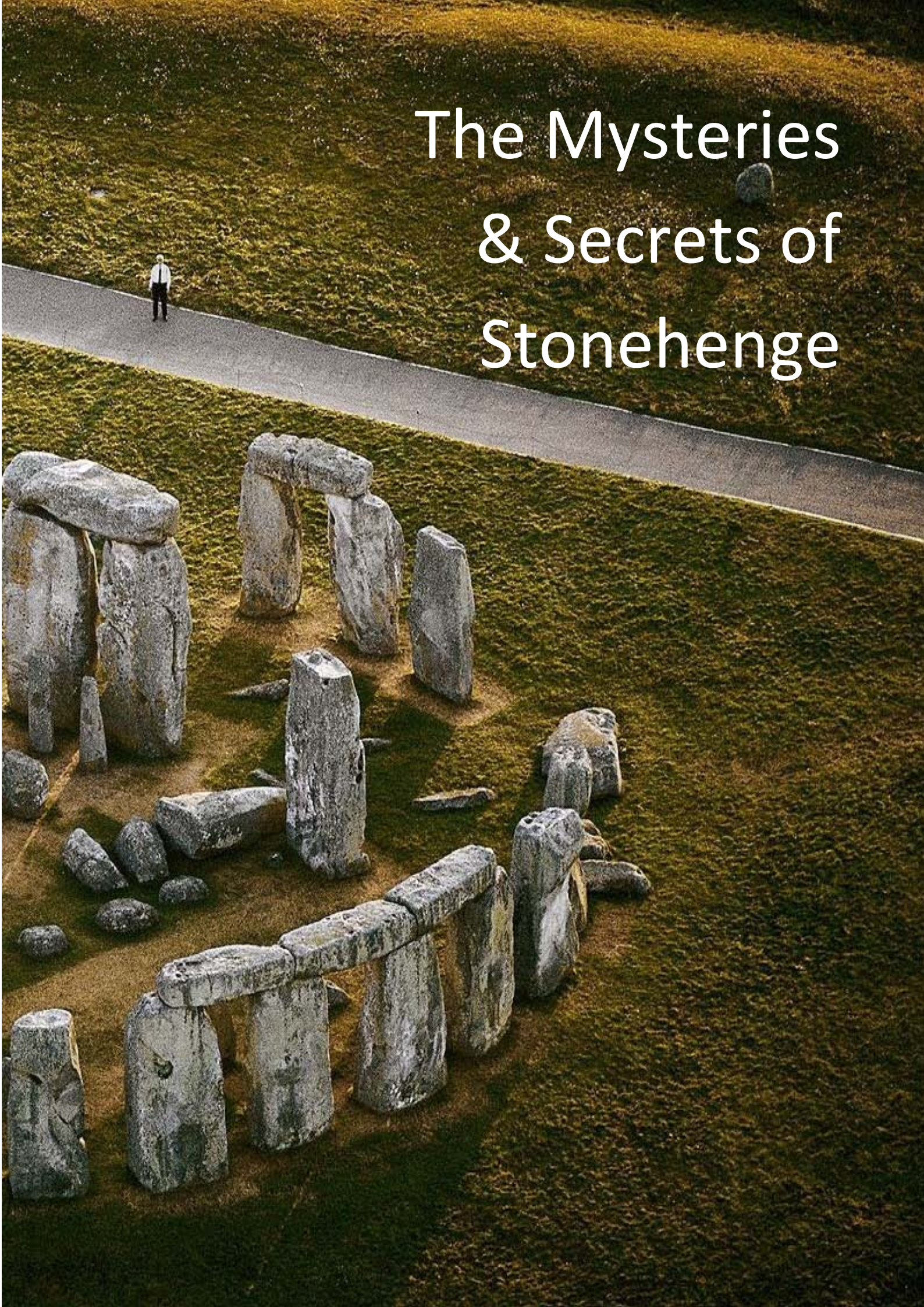


# The Mysteries & Secrets of Stonehenge



# **Project: Mysteries and Secrets of Stonehenge**

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**Our theme is Stonehenge. In this book you can find information about it with interesting facts, vocabulary and some exercises, which can help you improve your English.**



...Once upon a time, King Arthur came to Salisbury, where powerful lords, counts and faithful knights had been buried. Arthur decided to immortalize this great place. Merlin suggested Arthur taking the huge stones from the Irish mountain in Killarous, because these stones, he thought, would stand for centuries. On the Irish mountain there was a stone sculpture, whose copy would never be built, because the stones are enormous and nowhere on Earth there are similar ones. Arthur thought, it was impossible and only laughed at Merlin, but the magician said, the stones from the Irish mountain were magical and they had been brought to Killarous from Africa. King Arthur believed Merlin and after some time an army of 15 thousand people, leaded by Arthur's brother Uther Pendragon, left England for Killarous. Through winds and awful storms the brave men managed to get to their destination. But there they

understood that they were powerless in front of such big stones, soldiers simply couldn't move them, Merlin used his magic power and easily moved the stones towards the ships and the army returned to England.

The stones were placed in the same order they had stood on Killarous. Lots of knights, lords and even kings were buried there.

This is only a legend, But what is the scientists' opinion about it? What is Stonehenge? When, how and who was it built by? And what for? Let's try to answer as many questions as we can/

So, what is Stonehenge? For sure, all of you have heard about this monument and may be even seen it alive. In the history of Stonehenge the only clear thing is that it was built about 8500 years ago, and that it was a religious building and a cemetery. The name "Stonehenge" came from "Stahnen Gist" that in Old English means hanging stones

Stonehenge might have been a sanatorium. Scientists have noticed a number of injuries and illnesses from the skeletons, which had been found not so far: fractures of bones and inflammations, for example. All of this proves this theory. Perhaps, the stone rings have been charges and chancels for Celts (a druidic cult that appeared about 250 years Before Christ) Stonehenge could also be an observatory for the Celts to watch the stars. There is also an opinion that we are talking about «a car for predictions of eclipses of the stone age» Some scientists even think that this monument was an ancient calendar.

And the last question to be answered is the building of Stonehenge.

Who? When? And how?

The most obvious answer we expect you to give us - by the British people. But the scientists' opinion is "the first British were wild and rude people, who didn't know the clothes at all and didn't have the knowledge to build such a great monument, as Stonehenge." After the scientists compared carefully Stonehenge with other ancient buildings like this in Denmark, they expect Stonehenge to have been built by the Danes at the time they captured the Britons. But we still don't know who built Stonehenge. In different times its authors were called Romans, Celts, whose followers are still carrying out their rites there and even alien are suspected in it! But real facts, which show us the builders, haven't been found yet. The stone rings were built about 8500 years ago. Its building contains three periods: During the 1-st one, about 3100 years B.C., a ditch was dug and an arbor was poured. During the second period, after 2500 years B.C., the first big stones were put there. After that the entrance was carried from the East-North to the East. The scientists are still amazed by the exactness of how the direction was determined. During the third period the last stones were put there. An interesting fact about them is that only a drop of water changes their color in the blue one. But there are still a lot of secrets and mysteries - for example, how were the stones brought to the place which is 130 kilometers from London? The nearest career is 130 kilometers from the monument. Don't forget that only the outside ring of stones weights about 50 tons!

According to modern counting for the construction of Stonehenge were spent approximately two million men-hours of work. The purposes and reasons which had motivated people to spend so much time and effort to build this stone monument are still being a mystery.





### Vocabulary

approximately [ə'prɒksəmətli] – приблизительно

arbor ['ɑ:bər] - вал

bury ['beri:] - хоронить to be buried – быть похороненным

B.C. - до Рождества Христова

career [kə'ri:] - карьер

chancel ['tʃænsəl] - алтарь

compare [kəm'peɪ] – сравнить

contain [kən'tein] - включает в себя

count['kaʊnt]- граф

cult ['kʌlt] - культ

Danes ['deɪnz] - датчане

Denmark ['den ,mɑ:k] - Дания

determine [di'tɜ:mən] - определять

ditch ['dɪtʃ] - ров

druidic [dru:'ɪdɪk] - жреческий

eclipse [ɪ'klɪps] – затмение  
effort ['efɔ:t] – усилие  
entrance ['entrəns] - вход  
exactness [ɪg'zæktnəs] - точность  
fracture ['fræktʃər] - перелом  
immortalize [ɪ'mɔ:tə'laɪz] - увековечить  
inflammations [ˌɪnflə'meɪʃənz] - воспаления  
knight['naɪt] - рыцарь  
knowledge ['nɒlɪdʒ] - знания  
obvious ['ɒvɪ:əs] – очевидный  
powerful ['pəʊəfəl] – могущественный  
powerless – беспомощный power - сила  
purpose ['pɜ:pəs] - цель  
rite ['raɪt] - обряд

**Try to understand these words without using the vocabulary:**

- copy ● soldiers ● skeletons ● theory
- Christ ● observatory ● calendar ● monument
- period ● motivate ● sculpture



**Translate these sentences from Russian into English:**

1. Король Артур поверил Мерлину, и спустя некоторое время 15-ти тысячная армия, возглавленная братом Артура Утером Пендрагоном, выдвинулась из Англии в Киллараус.
2. Через ветра и ужасные штормы храбрецы смогли достичь своей цели.
3. Камни поставили в том же порядке, как они стояли на Киллариусе.
4. Стоунхендж мог быть оздоровительным центром.
5. Наверняка, вы тут же ответите – «британцами».
6. Тщательно сравнив Стоунхендж с прочими древностями такого рода в Дании, некоторые учёные теперь считают его возведённым датчанами в то время как они британцев подчинили.
7. Ближайший карьер в ста километрах от Стоунхенджа. Не стоит забывать, что только внешнее кольцо камней весит 50 тонн!
8. Цели и причины, подвигнувшие людей потратить столько усилий и времени на возведение этого каменного монумента, до сих пор остаются загадкой.

**Translate these sentences from English into Russian:**

1. Once upon a time, King Arthur came to Salisbury, where powerful lords, counts and faithful knights had been buried.
2. Arthur decided to immortalize this great place.
3. But there they understood that they were powerless in front of such big stones. Merlin used his magic power and easily moved the stones towards the ships and the army returned to England.
4. Lots of knights, lords and even kings were buried there.
5. All of this proves this theory.
6. Stonehenge could also be an observatory for the Celts to watch the stars. The scientists are still amazed by the exactness of how the direction was determined.
7. An interesting fact about them is that only a drop of water changes their color in the blue one.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. When was Stonehenge built?
2. Why is Stonehenge being expected to have been a sanatorium?
3. Why did Merlin suggest Arthur taking the huge stones from the Irish mountain in Killarous?
4. Who was buried next to the monument?
5. How many possible destinations of Stonehenge do we know?  
Name them.
6. Who built Stonehenge?
7. What happened during the 1-st period of the building of Stonehenge?
8. How many men-hours of work have probably been spend for the building of the monument?
9. What is the interesting fact about some of the stones?

**Here are the answers. What are the questions?**

1. Merlin did that.
2. There were three periods.
3. It was poured during the first period.
4. It becomes blue if even one drop of water falls on it.
5. It is 130 km from London.
6. Scientists have noticed a number of injuries and illnesses from the skeletons, which had been found not so far: fractures of bones and inflammations, for example.
7. The Kelts is a druidic cult that appeared about 250 years Before Christ.
8. It was built about 8500 years ago.
9. According to modern counting for the construction of Stonehenge were spent approximately two million men-hours of work.



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