

CASE: Stonehenge

LOCATION: United Kingdom

Stonehenge is a strange monument made up of huge stones stacked on top of one another and arranged in a circle. It's so old that the culture that built it left no written records, but scientists estimate from the age of the rock that building of it began around 3100 B.C. Though it's a wonderful feat of human strength, no one knows who built it or why. The rocks are believed to be from Wales—that's almost 150 miles away!

So how—and why—did humans hoist stones so large and fashion them into structures that have remained standing for thousands of years? Throughout history, people have believed all kinds of theories. Some say that a giant built it. Others say that the legendary wizard Merlin had it transported from Ireland. Researchers believe it was a place of worship or healing—Stonehenge sits near many ancient burial grounds, and many of the bodies buried there show signs of injury. Thus, many believe Stonehenge was a monument built to honor the dead, or a place where the sick could come to receive treatment. It also lines up with the sun during the solstice and equinox, so people wonder if it was built as a place to celebrate the changing of the seasons.

There are still people today who believe in and practice ancient mysticism, and use Stonehenge as a place of worship. Due to the size and weight of the stones that make it up, some believe humans couldn't have possibly built it. There are a few people that believe it was built by aliens thousands of years ago.



WITNESS: Bradley Owens, resident:

I saw some strange people dressed in dark robes trek out there late at night. When they got there, they stood in a circle and started chanting...I didn't stick around to find out what they were doing. One of them saw me, so I kept my head down and walked back home, pretending I didn't see them. I don't want them putting a curse on me!

WITNESS: Adele Abbott, resident:

I don't think there's anything strange about it, really... Has anyone considered that maybe they just made it for the art of it? I mean, they didn't have the Internet in those days; they had to do something to entertain themselves!

DID YOU KNOW?:
Not all of the original stones are still there. Over the course of history, some were removed to pave roads or build homes!

Which viewpoint do you most agree with? Explain why.

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