

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is one of the world's most famous monuments. It can be found on **Salisbury Plain**, Wiltshire in the south of England, and its giant stones can be seen from miles around.

Stonehenge was built over many hundreds of years. Work began in the late Neolithic Age, around 3000 BC. Over the next thousand years, people made many changes to the monument. The last changes were made in the early Bronze Age, around 1500 BC.

Building Stonehenge was a long and difficult task, the first job was to cut the boulders into shape. Archaeologists believe that the ancient Britons hammered wedges of wood into cracks in the stone. Next, the builders used chisels and hammers to shape them.

The stones were then transported to the building site. They were probably carried on rafts down rivers, then dragged overland by teams of men and oxen. It's believed that the stones were placed on giant wooden sledges and pulled along the ground using log rollers.

The builders dug deep ditches for the stones. Then they pulled on ropes to raise them and packed the ditches with rocks to hold the stones in place.

It is believed that many of the stones used in Stonehenge came from as far away as Pembrokeshire in Wales.

Some people think that Stonehenge was used to study the movements of the Sun and Moon. Other people think it was a place of healing. The ancient Britons believed that the Sun and Moon had a special power over their lives. It is very likely that they held special ceremonies at Stonehenge on **Midsummer's Day** and on **Midwinter's Day**. Many experts also believe that Stonehenge was used for funerals.

Stonehenge is just one of **hundreds** of stone circles that have been found in Britain. During the early Bronze Age, circles built from stone or wood played a very important part in the religious life of the British people.