

Name:

Date:

Video Worksheet: NOVA's Secrets of Stonehenge

Please watch the Nova production *Secrets of Stonehenge*. As you watch the video, please answer these questions. These questions are designed to help you discern the information about the form, content, building techniques, and context of one of the world's greatest heritage sites, Stonehenge. Our understanding of Stonehenge has changed dramatically over the past 10 years; indeed, the information I learned in my first art history class about this monument has mostly been disproven by the archaeologists in this program. Knowledge is always evolving!

1. Every year, _____ people descend on Stonehenge. (They are good tourists! They are asking some very good questions).
2. T F Stonehenge dates to a time before the pyramids were built in Egypt.
3. A circular _____ and bank surround the stones.
4. T F Some of the upright stones tower over 20 ft and weigh 45 tons.
5. T F There is a slight slope at the site, so the upper ring of lintels is quite crooked.
6. Where did the bluestones come from?
7. The Stonehenge/Riverside project is _____ people strong. Volunteers from a number of fields besides archaeology are included to answer key questions about the site.
8. T F This team is focusing on digging at Stonehenge itself, since there have been few excavations there until the 21st century.
9. T F Stonehenge was built in several stages.
10. In the 1920's, the remains of _____ individuals were discovered by archaeologists in the pits known as the Aubrey Holes.
11. T F The remains were cremated ashes, and back in the 1920s nothing could be learned from them.
12. Since no one wanted the remains, what did the archaeologists do with them?
13. What was the main tool of the people living in Britain at the time of Stonehenge?

14. T F Life was ok during the Neolithic; people were well nourished. It wasn't as hard or as dark as we might otherwise think.

15. How many individuals are believed to be in the 35 lbs of bone mass?

16. T F The bones at Stonehenge reveal that most of the people buried at Stonehenge were males, aged 25-40 years. That is odd...only certain people are being selected for burial.

17. What is the theory about the men buried here? Who were they?

18. T F Neolithic people also made timber circles by sticking large logs into holes dug in the earth.

19. Circles enclosed by a circular ditch and bank are known as a _____.

20. T F Antler horns were used as picks to dig holes during the Neolithic.

21. The Sarsen stones used came from a location 20 miles north of Stonehenge. Describe the area as it looked then and today:

22. T F Masons may have roughed out the Sarsens at the quarry site using pounding stones.

23. T F The newest theory of how the bluestones were moved postulates that perhaps stone balls were used as ball bearings to move stones along on wood sleds.

24. T F During the 18th century, scholars noted that the entrance to Stonehenge faces the rising sun on the day of the summer solstice. ***

25. What does the alignment at Stonehenge suggest?

26. In Madagascar, houses of stone are associated with the _____, and houses of perishable materials such as wood are associated with the _____. This correlated with the types of henges built in Neolithic Britain... some of stone and some of wood.

27. Less than 2 miles north of Stonehenge lies Durrington Walls. What served as the physical link between the two sites?

28. T F Archaeologists found both an avenue and evidence of people living at Durrington Walls.

29. T F People lived at Durrington Walls year round.

30. The timber circle at Durrington Walls points to the sun of the day of the _____ solstice.

31. T F Natural stripes/ridges in the landscape of the Salisbury Plain pointed to the sun on the days of the solstice. Stonehenge is located where the natural stripes end.

32. Are all scientists convinced about the ball bearing technology?

33. T F A stone circle was located along the banks of the River Avon...a mini Stonehenge without lintels dubbed Bluestone Henge.

34. What happened to Bluestone Henge in 2500 BC?

35. Why were the bluestones moved from Wales?

36. T F Stonehenge is one of the last great monuments of Neolithic Britain. With the introduction of metal, the era of grand communal monuments in Britain comes to an end.

*** This observation lead many people to believe that Stonehenge was a large calendar or astronomical clock. This was something I learned as an undergrad!

Tying everything together: A Summary of Important Points

1. What kinds of media are used at Stonehenge?
2. In terms of the visual elements and principles of design, what visual features are striking at Stonehenge?
3. What was the original function of Stonehenge?
4. What is the content or message behind Stonehenge?