

Visiting Stonehenge



Comprehension

Visiting Stonehenge

Dear Mum,

I'm really enjoying our school trip to see the ancient sites of Wiltshire. Today we visited Stonehenge. We went quite early in the day, and it was a misty morning. The rising sun shone through the mist, and gave the stones a spectacular glow.

It was really exciting to see the stones for the first time. As I approached, I saw where there used to be a bank and a ditch, and the circle of stones in the middle.

Some stones were standing up by themselves, and some had fallen over and were lying on the ground. The most impressive stones were the ones in groups of three – two upright ones with one on top. I learnt that these groups are called trilithons, and that they were probably put in place during the Bronze Age, and not the Stone Age at all. The monument actually took thousands of years to build! Just fancy that!

I was disappointed to find out we couldn't get close to the stone circle. But just from walking along the path that goes around the stones, I could tell how big they are. It was hard to imagine just how anyone could have put them in place, but I knew it must have taken a lot of people and a lot of effort.

I couldn't keep my eyes off the stones, especially the trilithons. I almost couldn't believe Stonehenge has been around for thousands of years. I tried to picture the ancient people who had come here to worship. The way the sun lit the stones made it feel quite magical. I could see why people might have chosen this place for such an awe-inspiring monument. I'd love to visit with you and Dad one day!

Love from,
Jess

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'monument'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'monument' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'monument'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'monument'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'monument' means.

Try this for other words, too. 2

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: spectacular	dramatic

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

There were stones of different sizes and shapes. I learnt about trilithons.

We are on a school trip to visit the ancient sites of Wiltshire.

It was really exciting to see the stones for the first time.

I tried to picture the ancient people who came here to worship. The place felt quite magical.

Today we visited Stonehenge.

Just from walking along the path around the stones, I could tell how big they are.

Get to the facts

1 Where is Stonehenge?

2 What were the groups of three stones called?

3 When were they put up?

4 How long has Stonehenge been around?

5 What made the scene feel magical?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Stonehenge at night

The sun had finally set, and all the tourists had gone home. The guard headed towards the stone circle with a torch in one hand. Everything should have been dark, but a faint light was glowing in the distance, near the stones... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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- b From that sentence, suggest what 'monument' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'monument'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'monument'.
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Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – spectacular

Synonym – dramatic

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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