

Postcards from Stonehenge

Please read the following four postcards that have been written following a visit to Stonehenge. Please look at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/plan-your-visit/> to find out about this famous landmark before tackling the questions.

Dear Mum, Dad and Sparky,
Hope you're ok. I'm having a great time on the field trip. Yesterday the class got to visit Stonehenge. It was so cool! When we got there, we had an audio tour which told us all about the site. I found out it was built around 5000 years ago... that's even older than Gran!
I found out that, in the past, over 150 people were found buried in the earthwork surrounding the stones, but I couldn't see any bones when I looked. It was huge, about 100 metres across, and it took us quite a while to get around the whole site. I hurt my neck from looking up at the tall stones for so long. Mr Jones said that no-one really knows the purpose of Stonehenge and asked us what we thought. I think it might be some sort of religious place used for sacrifices. What do you think?
Maybe we could visit it together soon. I think Dad would really like it. See you soon.
Lots of love and hugs, from Eddy xxx



Mr and Mrs Sculley
10 Rosehampton Road
South Stampton
FR5 GHY
England
United Kingdom

Dear Richard,
Just dropping you a quick line to let you know Stonehenge will make a great set for the new movie. You were right!
It has a spooky atmosphere... really eerie! The history behind the site is just fascinating. The tour guide explained that the site could have been used for religious ceremonies thousands of years ago. I also saw the 'Slaughter Stone', it is called this because it sometimes appeared red. People used to think this was because of the sacrifices that took place upon it. She even showed me where a medieval gallows was built... creepy. Not to mention the flocks of ravens that circle the site itself.
The guide also told me that the stones were carefully positioned to align with the sunrise at midsummer. This would make a great shot for the new film, don't you think?
Can't wait to hear your views on this. Diana.



Mr R. Lawton
New Reel Film Studio
Synergy Trading Estate
East Stampton
FR2 DDS
England
United Kingdom

Dear Stan and Barbara,
Hope you are both well. We are really enjoying our time here in the South of England. On your recommendation, we made a special visit to Stonehenge yesterday.
I was impressed with the stunning views: they were just as you described. Sandra was especially captivated with 'the mystery of the blue stones'. We found out that they were made from stone which came from over 240 miles away. We couldn't understand how people back then were able to transport these stones such long distances, as they didn't have lorries or trucks. Beats me!
These stones were then somehow moved and raised into a special horseshoe formation, which apparently lines up with the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset. I've since bought a book on Stonehenge and the story behind it from the gift shop, which you can borrow if you like when we get back.
Thanks again for the recommendation,
Terry and Sandra



Mr and Mrs Watson
10 Kings Bank Road
North Stampton
FR8 LLK
England
United Kingdom

Dear Mr Fox,
I just wanted to let you know that I was thrilled with the views from Stonehenge on my visit yesterday. I was able to get some great shots with the new XFT camera I bought last month. It was really able to zoom in on the detail of the stones. I'm hoping to get the pictures developed soon and bring them to the monthly meeting next Saturday.
Thanks for the tip about the sunrise. I managed to get to the prehistoric monument early enough, so that I could capture the sun rising behind the stones. It was both eerie and magical at the same time! I'm hoping I've captured the essence of the place in my shots. When the sun had fully risen I was able to take some great pictures of the ravens circling the stones and the tourists observing the site.
Looking forward to showing you the final results.
Sincerely,
Mr Bishop



Mr Fox
Fox Photographic Club
West Stampton
FR6 TTR
England
United Kingdom

Starter task:

The following vocabulary can be found in the text. Please use a dictionary and write the meaning of each of these words:

earthwork	gallows
atmosphere	captivated
eerie	essence
ceremony	medieval

Reading Comprehension Questions.

Please write the answers to the following questions.

(Please keep looking back to the postcards to check for the detail to help you answer them as fully as you can.)

1. What is the purpose of writing a postcard?
2. How long ago was Stonehenge built?
3. Who do you think Mr Jones might be?
4. Use a dictionary to write out the definition of the word 'sacrifice.'
5. What type of birds tend to circle around Stonehenge?
6. Can you describe what the photographs on the other side of these postcards might be? (Try to use the text to come up with what might be photographed to sell a postcard - please don't tell us, 'a photograph of Stonehenge'!)
7. Who do you think Sparky is?
8. How does Eddy feel about his visit to Stonehenge? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

9. Informal writing like postcards often use humour. Can you find an example of this in the text?
10. What is the 'Slaughter Stone'?
11. Terry & Sandra discuss the 'mystery of the blue stones'. What is the mystery?
12. From reading the postcard, what type of film do you think Richard and Diana are making? Explain your answer.
13. What do you think prompted Terry and Sandra to visit Stonehenge?
14. Looking at the postcard written by Terry & Sandra, list three facts that they have referred to.
15. What evidence is there to show Mr Bishop is a keen photographer?
16. Looking at the postcard written by Mr Bishop, list two opinions that have been included.
17. How old do you think Eddy is? Why do you think this?
18. Diana explains her views on Stonehenge, but what do you think Richard's view of the site is? How do you know?
19. 'I've captured the **essence** of the place in my shots' - can you think of another one to replace the word 'essence'?
20. Many people believe Stonehenge is an interesting and beautiful place to visit. Which words or phrases in the text demonstrate this?

Postcards from Stonehenge – Extension Activity

Section A

Write the words under the correct headings.

amazing	spooky	religious

mysterious	marvellous	spiritual	astonishing	eerie	sacred
astounding	unnerving	remarkable	holy	hallowed	frightening

Section B - Which person said the following?

Quote	Person
I hurt my neck from looking up at the tall stones for so long.	
She even showed me where a medieval gallows was built...creepy. Not to mention the flocks of ravens that circle the site itself.	
We couldn't understand how people back then were able to transport these stones such long distances as they didn't have lorries or trucks. Beats me!	
I managed to get to the prehistoric monument early enough so that I could capture the sun rising behind the stones.	

Maybe we could visit it together soon. I think Dad would really like it. See you soon.	
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Section C

Use the information in the text to help you establish why each person chose to visit Stonehenge. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

People	Reason for Visiting	Evidence
Eddy	A school trip	'I am having a great time on the field trip'.
Diana		
Terry & Sandra		
Mr Bishop		