

Postcards from Stonehenge - Answers

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	a large artificial bank of soil
atmosphere	the tone or mood of a place or a situation
eerie	strange and frightening
ceremony	a formal religious or public occasion
gallows	a structure typically used for the hanging of criminals
captivated	to attract and hold someone's attention
essence	the fundamental nature or important quality of something
medieval	relating to the Middle Ages

Questions 1 - 20.

1. What is the purpose of writing a postcard?
To let someone know what you are up to and how you are enjoying your holiday.
2. How long ago was Stonehenge built?
Around 5000 years ago.
3. Who do you think Mr Jones might be?
Eddy's teacher
4. Use a dictionary to write out the definition of the word 'sacrifice.'
The act of slaughtering an animal or person as an offering to a god.
5. What type of bird tends to circle around Stonehenge?
Ravens

6. Can you describe what the photographs on the other side of these postcards might be?

Your answers could include any of the following descriptions:

...the horseshoe formation of the stones.

...the ravens circling above the stones.

...the sun rising behind the Slaughter Stone.

...the tourists walking round and observing the site.

7. Who do you think Sparky is?

The family pet, such as a cat or dog.

8. How does Eddy feel about his visit to Stonehenge? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

He is enjoying the visit and wants to return one day with his family. He uses the word 'cool' to describe the site and says 'maybe we could visit together soon'.

9. Informal writing like postcards often use humour. Can you find an example of this in the text?

I found out it was built around 5000 years ago... that's even older than Gran!

10. What is the 'Slaughter Stone'?

A stone which appears to be red. People believe this is because of the blood that was spilt when people were sacrificed on it.

11. Terry & Sandra discuss the 'mystery of the blue stones'. What is the mystery?

No one knows how the heavy stones were carried over 240 miles to the site and then were moved and raised into position.

12. From reading the postcard, what type of film do you think Richard and Diana are making? Explain your answer.

A horror film or thriller, because they are looking for a spooky and atmospheric setting for the film.

13. What do you think prompted Terry and Sandra to visit Stonehenge?

A recommendation from their friends Stan and Barbara.

14. Looking at the postcard written by Terry & Sandra, list three facts that they have referred to.

The stones used came from over 240 miles away.

The stones were transported long distances, without any lorries or trucks.

The stones were moved and then raised into a special horseshoe formation, which apparently lines up with the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset.

15. What evidence is there to show Mr Bishop is a keen photographer?

His hobby is photography. He has followed the recommendation from a friend at the photographic club; he is keen to develop the photos and show them to other people; he got up early to take photographs.

16. Looking at the postcard written by Mr Bishop, list two opinions that have been included.

I was thrilled with the views.

It was both eerie and magical at the same time.

17. How old do you think Eddy is? Why do you think this?

Answers should refer to the language used: it was so cool, love and hugs or that he is visiting Stonehenge as part of an overnight field trip with his teacher. Any age around 9 – 13 years old.

18. Diana explains her views on Stonehenge, but what do you think Richard's view of the site is? How do you know?

Richard also thinks the site will be a great film set, because Diana uses the phrase 'you were right'.

19. 'I've captured the **essence** of the place in my shots' - can you think of another one to replace the word 'essence'?

I've captured the spirit of the place in my shots.

I've captured the soul of the place in my shots.

I've captured the heart of the place in my shots.

20. Many people believe Stonehenge is an interesting and beautiful place to visit. Which words or phrases in the text demonstrate this?

It was so cool!

I was impressed with the stunning views.

I was thrilled with the views.

Postcards from Stonehenge – Extension Activity

Section A

Write the words under the correct headings.

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

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.	Eddy
She even showed me where a medieval gallows was built...creepy. Not to mention the flocks of ravens that circle the site itself.	Diana
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!	Terry & Sandra
I managed to get to the prehistoric monument early enough so that I could capture the sun rising behind the stones.	Mr Bishop
Maybe we could visit it together soon. I think Dad would really like it. See you soon.	Eddy

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. Yesterday the class got to visit Stonehenge.'
Diana	Checking out the possible location of a film shoot	This would make a great shot for the new film don't you think?
Terry & Sandra	Sightseers visiting after friends recommended it	On your recommendation, we made a special visit to Stonehenge yesterday.

Mr Bishop	To take photographs	I was able to get some great shots with the new XFT camera I bought last month.
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