

Stonehenge



Stonehenge is a monument located in Wiltshire, England. It is comprised of about 100 huge upright stones placed in a circular layout.

While some of the stones probably come from a quarry about 25 miles away, some of the blue stones have been traced to Preseli Hills in Wales, nearly 200 miles away from Stonehenge.



Archaeologists believe Stonehenge was built in stages. The earliest construction started nearly 5,000 years ago around 3000 BC. Construction continued for nearly 1,500 years. The unique stone circle was erected about 2,500 BC.

Who built Stonehenge?

Many stories have been told through the ages about the origins of Stonehenge. A twelfth century writer named Geoffrey of Monmouth said that Stonehenge was the handiwork of Merlin.

In the mid-fifth century, the story goes, hundreds of British nobles were slaughtered by the Saxons and buried on Salisbury Plain. Hoping to erect a memorial to his fallen subjects, King Aureoles Ambrosias sent an army to Ireland to retrieve a stone circle known as the Giants' Ring, which ancient giants had built from magical African bluestones. The soldiers successfully defeated the Irish but failed to move the stones, so Merlin used his sorcery to spirit them across the sea and arrange them above the mass grave. Legend has it that Ambrosias and his brother Uther, King Arthur's father, are buried there as well. [History.com]

We now know that Stonehenge predates Merlin (or the figures who inspired him) by several thousand years.



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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