

Postcards from Stonehenge

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
Southampton
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', 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 Southampton
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

Postcards from Stonehenge – Comprehension

Section A

1. What is the purpose of a postcard? (T4)

2. How long ago was Stonehenge built? (C6/2b)

3. Who do you think Mr Jones is? (P5/2d)

4. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word 'sacrifice'. (L3)

5. What type of birds tend to circle around Stonehenge? (C6/2b)

6. Who is this postcard written to? (C6/2b)

7. What do you predict the photographs on the other side of the postcards would show? (P2/2e)

Section B

8. Who do you think Sparky is? (C1/2a)

9. How does Eddy feel about his visit to Stonehenge? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (P5/2d)

10. Informal writing like postcards often use humour. Can you find an example of this in the text? (L5/2g)

11. What is the ‘Slaughter Stone’? (C6/2b)

12. What do you think the word ‘recommendation’ means in this context? (C1/2a)

13. Terry and Sandra discuss ‘the mystery of the blue stones’. What is the mystery? (P5/2d)

Section C

14. From reading the postcard, what type of film do you think Richard and Diana are making? Explain your answer. (P5/2d)

15. What do you think prompted Terry and Sandra to visit Stonehenge? (P5/2d)

16. What is the purpose of this particular postcard? (T2)

17. List three examples of facts from this postcard. (C9)

18. What evidence s there to show Mr Bishop is a keen photographer? (P5/2d)

19. List three examples of opinions from this postcard. (C9)

20. Many people believe Stonehenge is an interesting and beautiful place to visit. Which words in the text are used to demonstrate this? (C7)

Section D

21. How old do you think Eddy is? Why do you think this? (P5/2d)

22. What does Diana mean by ‘a real atmosphere’? (C1/2a)

23. Diana refers to the gallows as being ‘creepy’. Why do you think she uses this words? (C1/2a)

24. Diana explains her views on Stonehenge, but what do you think Richard’s views on the site are? How do you know? (P5/2d)

25. The word ‘developed’ has several meanings. What is the meaning in this particular context? (C1/2a)

26. Which of the postcards is the most formal? Explain your answer. (T4)

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.	

Postcards from Stonehenge – Challenge Activity

Section C

The following vocabulary can be found in the text. Write the meaning of each of these words.

Vocabulary	Meaning
earthwork	
sacrifices	
atmosphere	
eerie	
ceremony	
medieval	
gallows	
captivated	
essence	

Section D

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		
Diana		
Terry and Sandra		
Mr Bishop		