

Why was Stonehenge built?

Here are some ideas about why people think Stonehenge was built. Read

Medieval period AD 1066-1600

A book published in AD 1136, contains the story of Hengist, a Saxon, who invaded Britain but king Aurelius defeated him. Aurelius wanted to build something to remember his fallen warriors and asked Merlin for help. Merlin organised for a famous stone circle from Ireland that had been built by giants to be brought over and put up on Salisbury Plain.



Post-medieval period, AD 1600-1900

William Stukeley dug a trench inside Stonehenge. He found some Roman pottery about halfway down, and prehistoric pottery at the bottom of the trench, so he decided that the monument was older than the Roman period. He believed it was built by druids, the priests of pre-Roman Britain.



Twentieth century, AD 1900-2000

Gerald Hawkins, who was an astronomer, thought that he had found patterns in the layout of Stonehenge that showed it lined up with the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset in the Bronze Age, about 4000 years ago, and that 56 holes around the outside of the stones were used to work out when the moon would be eclipsed.



Which ideas about Stonehenge do you think are most likely? Paste the theory cards in this table and explain your thinking.

	<i>Paste in the theory here</i>	<i>Why have you chosen to put it here?</i>
<i>Very likely</i>		
<i>Not very likely</i>		
<i>Not sure</i>		