The Mystery of Stonehenge

Introduction - Watch the **video**.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzLHZJWsKUA&noredirect=1
Don't try to understand everything. At the end work with a partner to talk about what you **saw** and what you **heard** in the video. Remember to listen for key information and to use what you see to help you to understand.

Activity One - let's watch another video, this time answer the questions below.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85zM40nUjvM&noredirect=1

(The people in the video talk with strong regional accents, you might not be used to that, we will listen to it in class - if you want more information about regional accents click here - http://www.easyaccessenglish.com/blog/2013/12/02/comprendre-differents-accents-anglais/).



Questions about the video:

1.Which two monuments did they show in this cartoon?
2.What was impressive about both monuments?
3.Why are they being compared here?
4.What kind of man goes to see Cliff Whitely?
5.How is the man dressed?
6.How did he react to the chair?
7.What suggestions were made about Stonehenge?
8. What does the man eat?

Activity Two - Stories in the Past - **hiSTORY**.

When we talk about the **past** we use the past tense of course and usually the **past simple**. You need to know the **irregular past participles** if you want to use the past tense in English. Let's see if you know them. Let's have a **team challenge**. *One team asks the other team to give the correct irregular past participle. If the other team gets it wrong they lose a point, if they get it right they win a point!*

The Simple past is the most commonly used past tense. It is used to talk about completed actions in the past *(I **visited** Stonehenge)*, or habits in the past (*I **studied** history when I was a child*), or durations in the past (we **had** an English lesson for two hours).

Here is how we make the simple past:



Verb + ED / Irregular Past Participle

Activity Three - **Reading**. Read the **text** about "Stonehenge" together. Identify the PAST PARTICIPLES. Say if they are Regular or Irregular. At the end you will answer the questions. Again, you are not supposed to understand everything in the text. Your objective is only to answer the questions and find the past participles.

The Mystery of Stonehenge

Kids Discover

Suppose you came upon a statue in the woods. "What is this?" you might ask. Why is it here? Who brought it? Why? How did they get it here? What does it mean? These are reasonable questions. With a little research and some effort, you could probably find the answers and satisfy your curiosity.

Now, imagine finding something for which there are no answers—whose origins and reason for existence you could never know! Stonehenge is one of the world's greatest mysteries. It is an assemblage of giant stones in southern England. We don't know really how it got there, or what it was used for.

The Stones - The monument consists of enormous stones laid out in concentric circles. The exterior circle is about 30 meters in diameter. The stones of the outer circle are sandstone columns connected by lintels about 3 meters long. The lintels are shaped to the curve of the circle.



Bigger blocks of sandstone and lintels form an inner semicircle. The largest of these stones weighs about as much as a fully loaded cement truck—40000 kilos. Today, sandstone similar to the kind at Stonehenge is found about 19 miles north, but no closer. Within the inner circle of pillars and lintels are smaller stones, called bluestones. Also arranged in a circle, some are still standing as they have been for thousands of years. Others are leaning or lying on the ground. These four-ton stones are from mountains nearly 250 miles away!

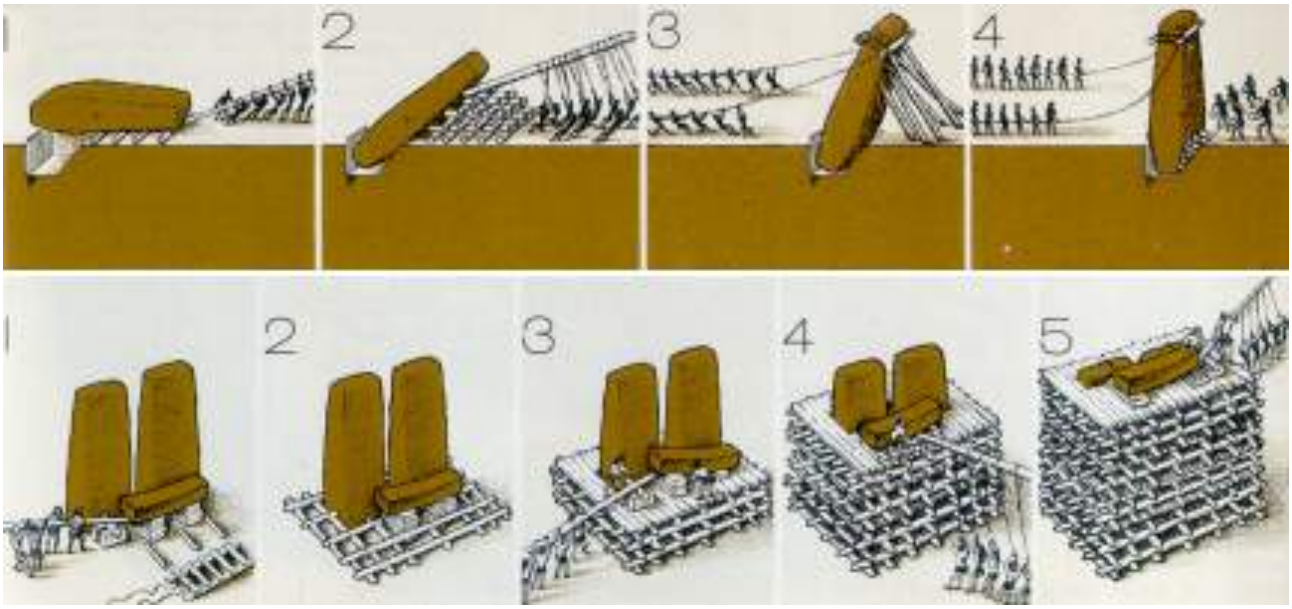
The Placement - A special stone called the Heel Stone stands at some distance from the main structure. Imagine standing at the center of the structure and looking toward the Heel Stone. If it were the morning of the summer or winter solstice, you would see the sun rise directly over the Heel Stone.

That's what we know about the structure. Here's some of what we don't know….
How were the stones transported? How were they stood on end? How were the lintels put in place? How does the sun rise and set exactly over the Heel Stone on the summer and winter solstice and was the placement of the stone chosen for that very purpose?

Transportation - Most archaeologists maintain that people transported the stones, even the bluestones that came from so far away. According to these specialists, the stones were dragged over land and perhaps towed along the shoreline to their destination.

Imagine what it might have taken take to house, clothe, and feed all the people needed to transport these stones! Would it have been possible? No one knows for sure.

Construction - What happened once the stones were at the site? How were they raised upright? And how were the lintels jacked into position? Barbara J. Becker, a historian of science, proposes the following:



So why was it built? Some believe the monument was a massive calendar. Others think that Stonehenge was a place of healing, a place where some type of primitive surgery was performed. As evidence, people of this view cite the nearby discovery of skeletons with crude gashes…. But the gashes could have had many origins. Other people think that Stonehenge was a burial ground and site for ancestor worship. Skeletal remains dating from 3000 B.C. to 2500 B.C. are offered as evidence for this theory. But why here?
Research scientists and others continue to explore Stonehenge and its many mysteries.
Only 2 things are certain: The sun will rise over the Heel Stone at the next solstice.
Our understanding of Stonehenge will remain incomplete.



Answer the Questions with your partner:

What is Stonehenge?

1 A 5,000-year-old wheel hinge
2 A mountaintop consisting of jagged, barren rock
3 Ancient stone statues
4 Giant stones arranged in concentric circles

Which sentence does not state a fact about Stonehenge?

1 Some stones in Stonehenge came from over 200 miles away.
2 Stonehenge is in southern England.
3 Stonehenge was an ancient burial ground.
4 Stonehenge was completed more than 3,000 years ago.

What is significant about the placement of the Heel Stone?

1 At the summer solstice, the sun can be seen rising over the Heel Stone.
2 The stone is next to an ancient road, which is now a major highway.
3 The stone is precisely 19 miles north-northwest of the entrance to Stonehenge.
4 Twice a year, the Heel Stone casts a shadow long enough to reach Stonehenge.

Why is Stonehenge so mysterious?

1 Archaeologists have yet to decipher the markings on the stones.
2 Geologists do not understand why the limestone has survived intact.
3 Little is known about how and why the monument was built.
4 Scientists have not been allowed to study the stones.

Which sentence does not describe a theory about why Stonehenge was built?

1 Stonehenge was built as an ancient palace.
2 Stonehenge was an ancient burial ground.
3 Stonehenge was built as an astronomical calendar.
4 Stonehenge was built as a place of healing.



Activity Four: **Tell your own story.**
With a partner **invent** the real story behind stonehenge. Use the **simple past** to tell the story. Here are some verbs to help you. While one person speaks the other person has to **act out** the actions of the story so that everyone understands better.

Activity Five: - **Consequences** - in small groups start off a story on a piece of paper but then hide the first part and only show the last sentence. Each person adds to the story (in the past tense) and then folds the paper to hide all but the last sentence. At the end read out the story to the class. It should be quite funny!

Activity Six: **Team Challenge** - Tell the **story** of one of these monuments.

1.The leaning tower of Pisa
2.The Sagrada Familia
3.The Tower of London
4.Big ben
5.Notre Dame

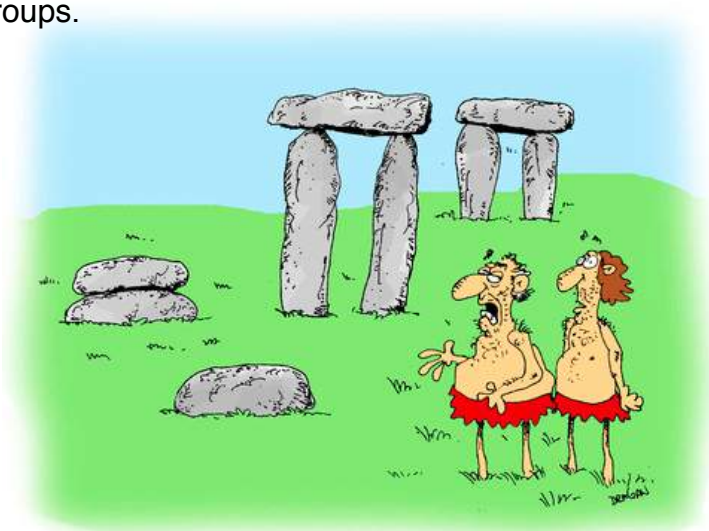
Activity Seven - Watch the first 02:23 minutes of this video and try to listen for answers to the questions below.

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/news/culture-places-news/stonehenge-village-vin/

1.What is under his feet?
2.What are the houses like?
3.What were they built out of?
4.What did they find around the remains of the houses?
5.How do they know that the people ate well?
6.Why do they think the people needed a lot of food?
7.When do the houses date from?
8.What's important about the date?
9.What did the builders do every morning?
10.Where was the man talking from?

Activity Eight: Breaking News! Work in small groups.

Act out a news story where you are breaking news about a new incredible discovery or archeological finding related to Stonehenge... **invent** something amazing and tell the story ***news flash style*** to the rest of the class.



This will be a new ultra modern shopping mall