

## Stonehenge Theory 1



### A Burial Site

Evidence of **cremated bodies** have been found at the site that date to the time of the earliest monument (before the stones were placed).

It is possible that the large entrance and the avenue from the river were built for the purpose of **funeral processions**. People could have transported the dead along the river, and then carried them up to the Stonehenge monument in a procession. The site was big enough for hundreds of people to gather for funerals or burial ceremonies.

But this theory still leaves unanswered questions about **why the builders went to such trouble to use particular stones** from so far away.



**On your sheet, look at the key evidence and questions about this theory.**

*theory*

*evidence*

*questions*





## Stonehenge Theory 2

### A Concert Venue

Some historians suggest that Stonehenge was a **place for concerts or ancient parties**.

Experts in acoustics (the science of how sound works) have noticed that the stones are perfectly positioned for people standing inside them to **hear musical rhythms clearly** and also work as percussion instruments. There is plenty of space for dancing. Perhaps the particular stones used to build Stonehenge were **selected for their acoustic qualities**.

But it is **difficult to link any strong archaeological evidence** to this theory and it still leaves questions about why the builders went to quite so much trouble just to build a party venue.



**On your sheet, write down the key evidence and questions about this theory.**

*theory*

*evidence*

*questions*





## Stonehenge Theory 3

### A Healing Place

Other historians have put forward a theory that Stonehenge was **a place for people to go to be healed** when they were not very well.

Some of the skeletons discovered at the site have shown signs that the people were **suffering from very serious illnesses or injuries** before they died and that they may have travelled a long way especially to come to Stonehenge. What's more, two of the skulls suggest that they may have **undergone a type of prehistoric surgery**. Perhaps the particular stones used to build Stonehenge were chosen because people believed they had healing powers.

This is a popular theory, but it **does not explain the shape of the Stonehenge design**, why it was rearranged or the way it aligns with the summer and winter solstice.



**On your sheet, write down the key evidence and questions about this theory.**

*theory*

*evidence*

*questions*





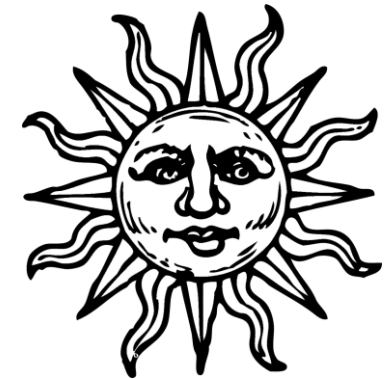
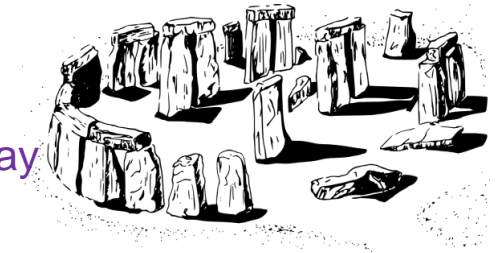
## Stonehenge Theory 4

### An Ancient Calendar

Some historians looking carefully at the shape of the stones suggest that the **monument was a gigantic calendar.**

At the time, people did not have their own calendars and there was no standard way to keep track of the date. The way in which the stone circle is designed **lines up exactly with the sunrise at the summer and winter solstice** and gave people a way of tracking the seasons. Knowing the date helped people to be more successful at growing crops throughout the year and helped people to organise religious or social events.

This theory **helps to explain the shape of the monument**, but it still leaves questions about the cremated bodies found there by archaeologists and the great effort the builders went to in order to seek particular stones.



**On your sheet, write down the key evidence and questions about this theory.**

*theory*

*evidence*

*questions*

