

What is Stonehenge?

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About Stonehenge:

- It is a **prehistoric stone circle monument** and archaeological site located in Wiltshire, **England**.
- It is comprised of roughly 100 **massive upright stones** placed in a **circular layout**.
- It was **built in several stages**:
 - The **first monument** was an early henge monument, built about **5,000 years ago**, and the **unique stone circle** was **erected in the late Neolithic period**, about **2500 BC**.
 - In the **early Bronze Age**, many **burial mounds were built nearby**.
- **Purpose**:
 - Though there is **no definite evidence** as to the **intended purpose** of Stonehenge, it was **presumably a religious site** and an expression of the power and wealth of the chieftains, aristocrats, and priests who had it built.
 - It is just one **part of a larger sacred landscape** that contained many other stone and wooden structures, as well as burials.
 - It was **aligned with the Sun** and **possibly used for observing the Sun and Moon and working out the farming calendar**.

Along with more than 350 nearby monuments and henges (ancient earthworks consisting of a circular bank and ditch), including the kindred temple complex at Avebury, Stonehenge was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1986.

Q1: What is a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

A World Heritage Site (WHS) is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by UNESCO under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1972. These sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.

Source: Indian-origin man among 2 arrested for spraying Stonehenge orange

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/stonehenge/>

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