



The Secret of the Stones

Victoria **Heward**



free Audiobook



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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.

The Characters



Back row from left: Stephen, Dad, Mom, Max and Laura, Mrs Black, Mr Knight, Barbara.



Welcome to Stonehenge

A Visitor's Guide

 Stonehenge is a very old monument in the South of England. The circle of enormous stones is more than 5,000 years old but nobody knows exactly what it is.

Every year thousands of tourists visit Stonehenge. They all want to know answers to the same questions: when, how, who, why. Unfortunately we don't know all the answers.

When?

This is the only question we can answer accurately. Look at the timeline to see how old it is.

BCE 8500	Archaeologists say that there was ¹ probably some activity in this place a long time before the stones arrived.
3000	Construction of the original monument in wood.
2000	
1500	The stone monument is complete.
1000	
CE 0	
1000	
1500	
2014	Around 800,000 people visit Stonehenge

Experts think that the builders worked² for thirty million hours to construct the final monument.

How?

This is a mystery. The stones are very big and extremely heavy. Many of them also come from the Preseli Mountains in Wales, 385 kilometres away from Stonehenge, and some of them weigh 4,000 kilogrammes. Nobody understands what was so important about these particular stones.

Who?

Probably primitive British people constructed³ Stonehenge but we can't be sure.

Why?

This is the question everybody wants to answer... but nobody can. Some people think it is a temple to the sun or an ancient god. Perhaps it is the tomb of an important king. Others think it is a sort of calendar to study the sky and the stars, a primitive computer or maybe a way to communicate with aliens.

1. **Was** : past form of the verb 'to be'.
2. **Worked** : past form of the verb 'to work'.
3. **Constructed** : past form of the verb 'to construct'.

Nobody knows the answer but everybody agrees that there is something special and magical about Stonehenge.

Visiting Stonehenge

Stonehenge is open to visitors every day except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Tickets cost £8.00 for an adult and £4.80 for children from 5 to 15. Please book for groups.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

A Read the guide to Stonehenge and find words which mean:

- 1 people who study old objects buried under the ground.
- 2 very big.
- 3 people who know lots of things about a particular subject.
- 4 the place where people put a dead body.
- 5 something to help you know the day and the month.
- 6 people who come from a different planet.

B Choose the correct answer to these questions – A, B or C.

- 1 Stonehenge is
 - A ☐ not in the North of England.
 - B ☐ a circle of little stones.
 - C ☐ something everybody understands.
- 2 Every year thousands of tourists
 - A ☐ answer the questions.
 - B ☐ visit Stonehenge.
 - C ☐ are very unfortunate.
- 3 The Preseli Mountains
 - A ☐ are near Stonehenge.
 - B ☐ are very heavy.
 - C ☐ are in Wales.
- 4 Stonehenge is
 - A ☐ definitely an old temple.
 - B ☐ not a sort of calendar.
 - C ☐ perhaps a way to study the sky.
- 5 Children aged 4
 - A ☐ can't go to Stonehenge at Christmas.
 - B ☐ have to pay to visit Stonehenge.
 - C ☐ can visit Stonehenge every day.

BEFORE YOU READ



1 LISTENING



Listen to Chapter One. Choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Max and Laura live
 - A ☐ in London.
 - B ☐ in Edinburgh.
 - C ☐ in Dublin.
- 2 Uncle Stephen has lots of
 - A ☐ children.
 - B ☐ bags.
 - C ☐ presents.
- 3 Mum drives, and Dad
 - A ☐ follows in his car.
 - B ☐ talks to the twins.
 - C ☐ sleeps.
- 4 When they see the cottage, Max and Laura
 - A ☐ think it's lovely.
 - B ☐ want to find some sheep.
 - C ☐ say nothing.
- 5 Uncle Stephen
 - A ☐ thinks the cottage is black and strange.
 - B ☐ looks into the distance.
 - C ☐ doesn't like Stonecross.
- 6 When Dad wakes up
 - A ☐ he doesn't know where he is.
 - B ☐ he helps with the cases.
 - C ☐ he says the cottage is wonderful.
- 7 Uncle Stephen
 - A ☐ wants to read a book.
 - B ☐ is happy to be at Stonecross.
 - C ☐ understands the mystery.



CHAPTER ONE

Holiday Time



Laura and Max are twins. They live in London with their mum and dad. They always have interesting adventures on holiday. They visit different cities and countries.

This summer they are going to stay in a small cottage in the country. The cottage is in a village called Stonecross, near Salisbury. Max and Laura aren't very happy.

'Boring!' says Max. He looks at the map. 'The cottage is in the middle of a field. What can we do in the middle of a field?'

'Why are we going there?' asks Laura.

Their dad is very tired. He says he wants to relax and to sleep a lot. Their mum loves the countryside. She wants to walk and paint.

'It's a very beautiful part of England,' she says. 'Full of culture, tradition, mystery...'

'Mystery?' say Max and Laura together. 'Mystery! OK, let's go!'

The next day Uncle Stephen arrives with lots of bags. This year they are all going on holiday together.



The Secret of the Stones

Mum drives the family car. Dad sleeps... Dad always sleeps! Uncle Stephen follows in his old car.

Two hours later they arrive at Stonecross and find their cottage in the middle of a field. There are green hills, beautiful cottages, flowers, sheep and cows everywhere.

'It's lovely!' say Max and Laura.

'It's perfect!!' says Mum.

Dad says nothing. He is sleeping in the car.

'What do you think Stephen? Do you like it?' Uncle Stephen doesn't answer. He is looking into the distance. His eyes are very black and strange.

'What's the matter, Stephen?' asks Mum. 'Don't you like the cottage?'

'Err... yes. It's wonderful,' he says. 'Come on everyone. Let's take these cases inside. Wake up, Andrew!' Dad wakes up.

'Oh... err... where are we?'

'We're here at Stonecross. Come and help us. We must take the cases into the cottage.'

They take the cases and go inside, but Uncle Stephen waits. He looks around him and his face is very serious. Nobody hears him when he says, 'This place... It's in my book... the old book of mysteries! Finally I am here! Now I can find the answer to the mystery of Stonehenge.'

'Stephen!!?' calls Mum from the cottage.

'I'm coming,' he replies. He takes a last look around him and goes to the cottage.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KEY

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read the summary of Chapter One. Choose the correct word – A, B or C – for each space and complete the text.

Max and Laura (1) in London but this summer they are going to stay in a small (2) with their family. Max doesn't think the idea is very (3) because there is nothing to do. The cottage is (4) the middle of a field. Dad is happy because he (5) to sleep and to relax. Mum says that Stonecross is in a beautiful (6) of England. It is also very (7) Max and Laura love mysteries and hope (8) them there.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 A living | B lives | C live |
| 2 A country | B city | C cottage |
| 3 A boring | B interesting | C relaxing |
| 4 A in | B on | C at |
| 5 A does | B wants | C likes |
| 6 A area | B field | C part |
| 7 A different | B mysterious | C modern |
| 8 A find | B finding | C to find |

2 VOCABULARY

Look at the map. Can you find the place where Max and Laura are going to stay? Label the map with the words here below.

hill field river path cottage hotel



3 WORD SEARCH

Complete the sentences. Then search the words in the word square. Use your dictionary to help you.

- 1 In the summer children don't go to
- 2 If you go to a different country, don't forget your It's a very important document!
- 3 Everyone loves in the sea in the summer.
- 4 Do you prefer visiting old cities or ones?
- 5 I love hot, days at the beach.
- 6 Most people go on holiday in July or



PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The Present Simple

- describes habits and routines. (Remember to add an **-s** to the third person singular): *Dad always sleeps*
- describes things that are always true: **They live** in London

The Present Continuous (subject + **be** + **-ing**)

- describes actions happening now: **Dad is sleeping**
- describes actions happening in this general period: *The book I am studying*

4 GRAMMAR

Put the verbs into the correct form, present simple or present continuous.

- 1 'Where are the twins?' 'They (play) in the garden.'
- 2 I (watch) TV every day after school.
- 3 Tommy usually (sleep) a lot on Sunday.
- 4 Please be quiet. I (study).
- 5 We (go) to violin lessons on Monday and Thursday.

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Match the words (1-6) with the pictures (A-F). Then write the words next to the correct definition.

1 study

3 housekeeper

5 sheet

2 pillow

4 wood

6 earrings



- 1 It comes from trees. You burn it or make furniture with it.
- 2 You put your head on it when you sleep.
- 3 It covers your bed.
- 4 You wear these in your ears.
- 5 A person who looks after a building.
- 6 This room is similar to an office in your house.