

**10 exhibition highlights  
in plain English**



# **The world of Stonehenge**

# About this book

This book is written using short, easy to read sentences. It can be used by anyone, including visitors with additional learning needs, families and speakers of other languages.

A large print guide containing the entire exhibition text is also available.

This book takes you on a tour of the exhibition. It looks at 10 different objects.

A map of the exhibition shows you where to find the objects.

There is an introduction to each part of the exhibition. There are eight sections.

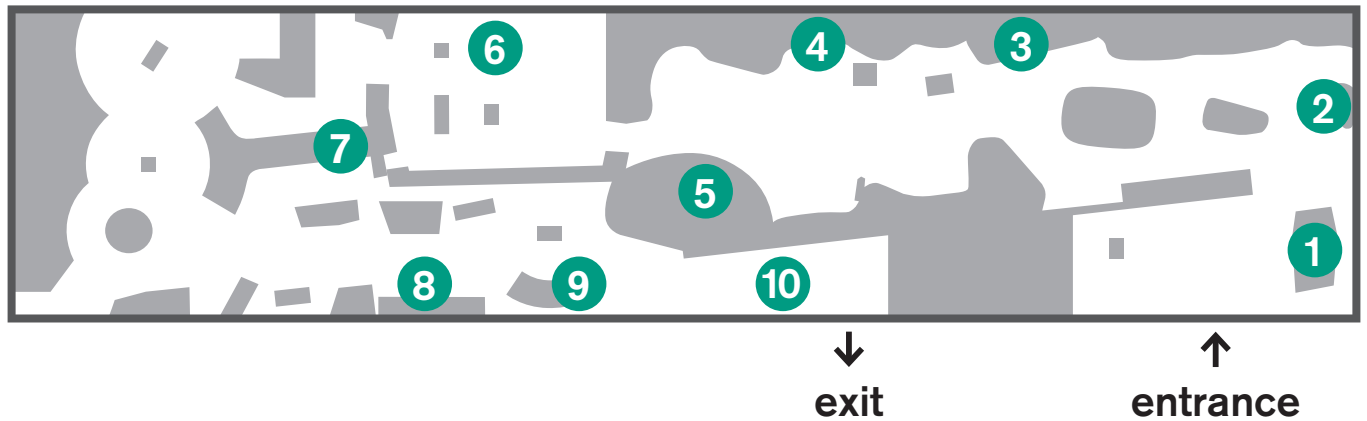
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# Objects

Each object has a number. These numbers are on the exhibition map on the next page. The map shows you where each object is in the exhibition.

- 1 Stone showing people and animals**
- 2 Headdress made from deer skull**
- 3 Oxen and cart**
- 4 Carved stone ball**
- 5 Tree trunks in a circle**
- 6 Metal disc decorated with the sun, moon and stars**
- 7 Objects buried with a man**
- 8 Warrior's armour**
- 9 Pottery bowl**
- 10 Gold jewellery**

# Exhibition map



1



2



3



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# Introduction to The world of Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a circle of large stones.

It was built in Wiltshire, in south-west England, about 5,000 years ago.

Stonehenge was a special place where people came together.

It helps us learn about their lives.



## 1 Stone showing people and animals



Image © Direzione regionale Musei Lombardia / MUPRE  
– Museo Nazionale della Preistoria della Valle Camonica

This stone is from Italy.

Like Stonehenge, it was special.

People visited it for hundreds of years.

They carved pictures on it.

It shows the sun, people and wild animals.

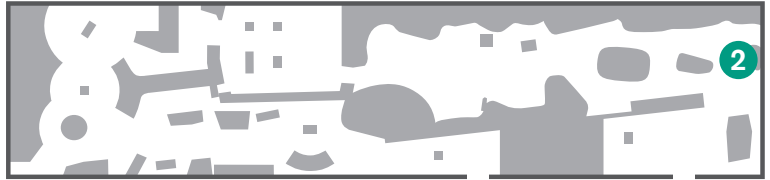
# Introduction to Working with nature

Long ago people survived by hunting animals and gathering plants.

This provided food and materials to make things.

Then people began farming. They planted crops and kept animals.

They marked special places with stone circles, like Stonehenge.



## 2 Headdress made from deer skull



Image © Trustees of the British Museum

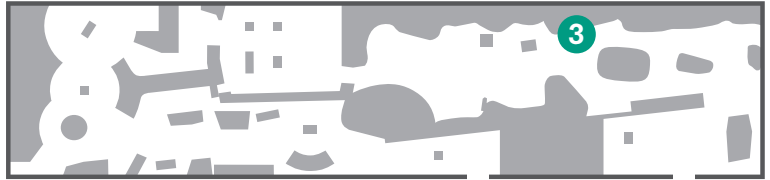
This is a deer skull.

The brain and some of the bone has been removed.

People wore it on their head to hunt or at feasts.

Deer provided food, bone and fur.

People respected them.



### 3 Oxen and cart



Image © State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt

Oxen are like bulls.

People used them to plough fields.

They also pulled heavy stones for building places like Stonehenge.

These oxen were killed. They were buried with a wooden cart.

They might have been a gift to the spirit world to make sure life was good.

# Introduction to Sermons in stones

People in Britain and Ireland lived far apart but shared the same art style.

They carved spirals and circles on objects, buildings and rocks.

The designs were inspired by nature.

Groups of people worked together to build special places like Stonehenge.



#### 4 Carved stone ball



Image © National Museums Scotland

We do not know what this object was used for.

The same designs have been found on pots,  
in graves and inside houses.

This object took a long time to make.

The person who made it was very skilled.

The finished object was probably very special.

# Introduction to Making metal

About 4,500 years ago, people in Britain and Ireland learned how to make metal.

Metal workers were important people.

They used metal to make tools.

Metal axes were useful for woodwork.

People used them to chop down trees and build boats.



## 5 Tree trunks in a circle



Image © Wendy George

This wooden circle is called Seahenge.

It was made from 55 oak trees.

There are marks on the wood made by 51 different metal axes.

It was probably made by a team of people working together.

People met inside the circle. It was a special place.

# Introduction to Under one sky

Many special objects were made from gold.

It reminded people of the sun.

The people who wore gold were also special.

Once gold objects started to be popular, places like Stonehenge became less important.



## 6 Metal disc decorated with the sun, moon and stars



Image © State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt

This metal disc is from Germany.

It is decorated with stars, the sun and the moon.

People knew a lot about the daytime and nighttime sky.

Objects like this helped them follow the seasons.

It was buried in the ground with swords, axes and jewellery.

# Introduction to Raising the dead

About 4,500 years ago, people began to bury the dead with objects.

Graves were covered with earth to make tall mounds.

At Stonehenge, more than 100 burials have been found.

The burials and the objects in them tell us about the people who lived nearby.



## 7 Objects buried with a man



Image © The Salisbury Museum

These objects were buried with a man.

He came from the Alps to live near Stonehenge.

The man could make metal.

He carried a bow and arrow. He wore gold in his hair.

We do not know his real name, but today we call him the *Amesbury* archer.

# Introduction to To the sea

People from Britain began to travel further by sea.

They traded with people in other parts of Europe.

They came home with special objects and precious bronze metal.

They met new people with new ideas.

Stone circles like Stonehenge became less important as meeting places.



## 8 Warrior's armour



Image © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Archéologie nationale) / Loïc Hamon

Meeting new people sometimes led to fighting and war.

This armour protected a warrior's chest and back.

It is decorated with special symbols.

Perhaps they added extra protection.

People told exciting stories about battles and brave fighters.



## 9 Pottery bowl



Image © Cambridge Archaeological Unit / David Webb

Some people built houses on wooden poles above the water.

They made and traded clothes, tools and jewellery.

After only one year, the houses burned down.

The people moved away.

They left their belongings behind, including pots like these.

# Introduction to

## The last of the light

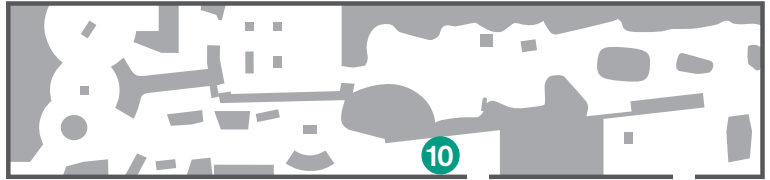
By 3,800 years ago life was different.

The local weather and environment were changing.

There was less trading.

People did not gather at stone circles anymore.

The world of Stonehenge had ended.



## 10 Gold jewellery



Image © Trustees of the British Museum, Purchase supported by Art Fund, British Museum Patrons and the American Friends of the British Museum

This gold pendant is beautiful.

The decoration shimmers in the light.

The same design was used for hundreds of years.

It was thrown into a pool of water.

Perhaps it was a gift made by people to feel safe in changing times.

