

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

BISCUIT HENGE



KS1-2

Recommended for

KS1 & KS2 (History, Maths)

Learning objectives

- Understand that Stonehenge was made up of sarsens and bluestones and identify how these were laid out.
- Appreciate the overall scale of Stonehenge and the comparative size of its component parts.



Example of a biscuit henge made by a Year 3 class at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, in Swanage.

SUMMARY

Create a scale model of Stonehenge's final phase, when the bluestones were rearranged c.2200 BC. Use the measurements on the next page to calculate a manageable size for the stones you are going to use to build your scale model. We recommend a scale of $\frac{1}{12}$ or less. The important contrasts at this scale are between the smaller bluestones and the larger sarsens.

You could use rectangular-shaped biscuits to build your scale model of Stonehenge. A larger diagram is provided on the next page to make sure students are confident with the layout of the stone circle. Work from the inside out to construct your scale model.

Shortbread biscuits make excellent sarsen stones and are even the right colour. Pink wafers and bourbons will balance well to form lintelled structures.

Alternatively, vegetables such as carrots and potatoes are easy to sculpt into the right shapes. You can even try shaping the mortise and tenon joints that allow the uprights and the lintels to fit together.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

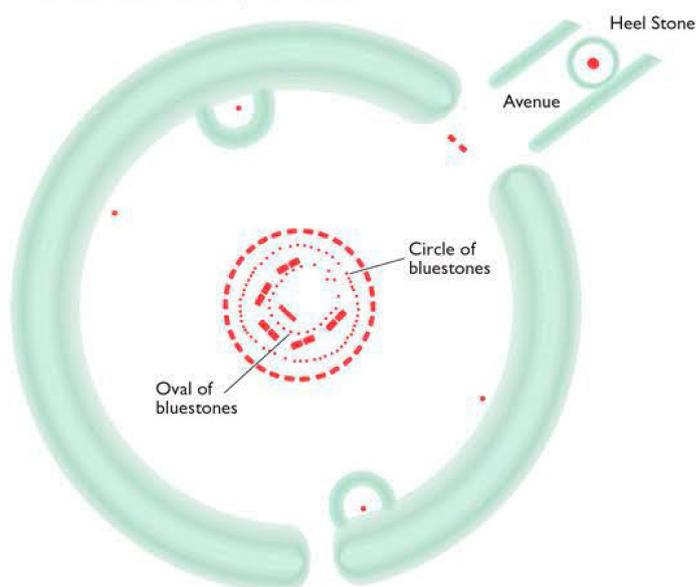
If you are feeling adventurous, you could use cardboard boxes to construct a $\frac{1}{4}$ scale sarsen trilithon, or even the whole trilithon horseshoe. You may need to do this outside. Electrical retailers are good sources of cardboard as fridges and other white goods come in big boxes. You could split students into five groups and get them to construct one sarsen trilithon each, finally bringing them all together to form the horseshoe.

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BISCUIT HENGE

AVERAGE ABOVE-GROUND MEASUREMENTS (in metres)			
Component	Height	Width	Depth
Bluestone horseshoe	2.2	0.6	0.5
Shortest trilithon uprights	5.2	2.0	1.3
Medium trilithon uprights	6.0	2.0	1.2
Tallest (Great Trilithon) uprights	6.5	2.1	1.2
Trilithon lintels	0.5	4.5	1.4
Bluestone circle	1.6	0.8	1.3
Sarsen circle (upright stones)	4	2.2	1.2
Sarsen circle (lintels)	0.8	3.5	1.3

The Bluestones Rearranged c.2200 BC



A diagram of the third and final phase of development at Stonehenge, when the smaller bluestones were rearranged to form a circle and an oval.