

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

SMALL-SCALE

STONEHENGE

Hand icon | +, -, ×, ÷ icons | **KS3**

Recommended for

KS3 (History, Maths, Engineering)

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, and practise skills of scaling.

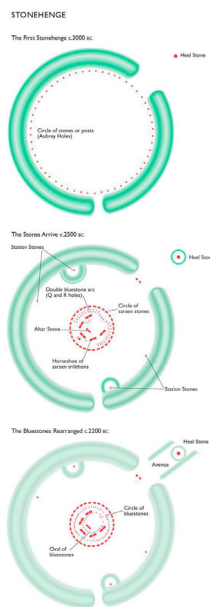
SUMMARY

Create a scale model of Stonehenge's final phase, when the bluestones were rearranged c.2200 BC. Students can use the diagram and measurements on the next page to calculate a manageable size for the stones they are going to use to build their scale model. You could ask students to calculate an appropriate scale based on the surface area available to them.

At $\frac{1}{4}$ scale the uprights of the tallest trilithon will still be over 1.6 metres high so, if choosing this scale, you might want to use an outdoor space and build just one sarsen trilithon. You could split students into five groups and get them to construct one sarsen trilithon each, finally bringing them all together to form the trilithon horseshoe.

Electrical retailers are good sources of cardboard as fridges and other white goods come in big boxes. If stones with lintels are being made (e.g. a trilithon) then mortise and tenon joints should be added by cutting out the mortise holes and adding papier-mâché tenons to match.

A scale of $\frac{1}{10}$ or smaller might be more manageable if you wish to build inside or on classroom table tops. Students could use potatoes, which are sturdy and easy to shape, to create their scaled-down stones.



A diagram of Stonehenge's three phases of development. Green indicates earthworks and red shows where the stones would have been.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

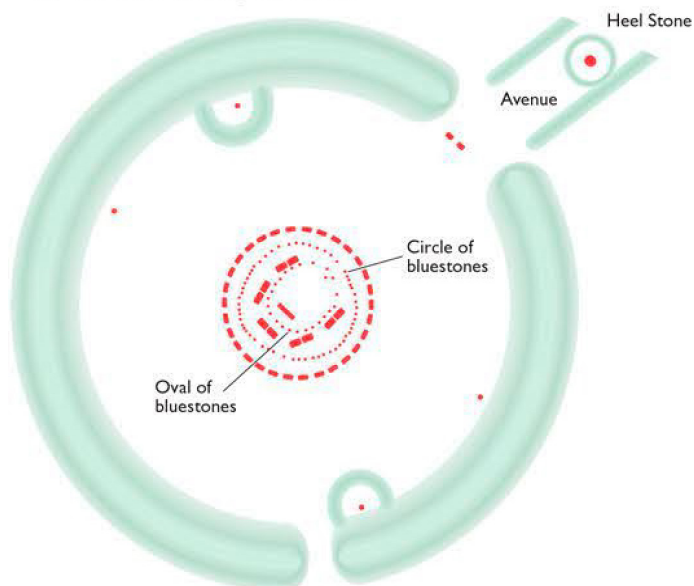
You could ask students to rearrange their scale models to reflect the different phases of Stonehenge's development. The diagrams in the left-hand column give an idea of where the stones (red) were moved to at each stage. Students could take photographs of each arrangement and stick these into their exercise books to create a timeline.

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SMALL-SCALE STONEHENGE

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 a horseshoe.