



Investigate: SILBURY HILL



An artist's idea of the building of Silbury Hill

SILBURY HILL IS AMAZING!

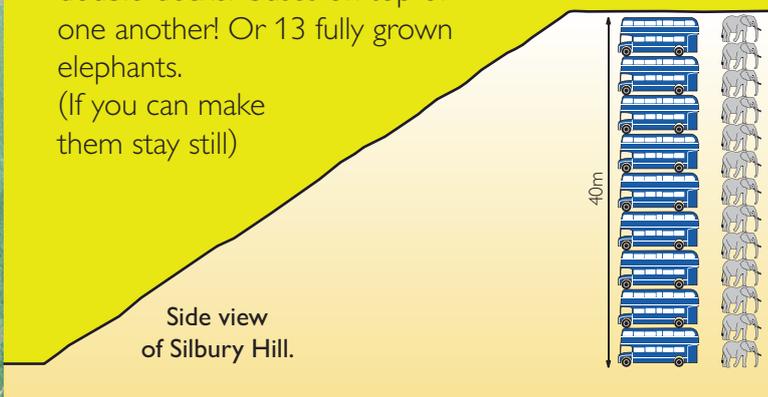
① Silbury Hill covers 2.2 hectares

You could easily fit a full size football pitch inside the area covered by Silbury Hill!



② It is 40m high and 160m diameter at the base.

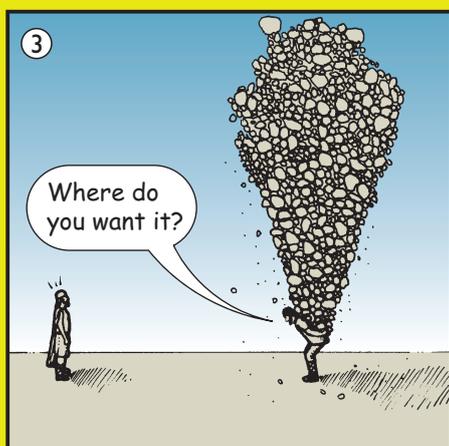
That's the same as stacking 9 double-decker buses on top of one another! Or 13 fully grown elephants. (If you can make them stay still)



Side view of Silbury Hill.

③

Where do you want it?



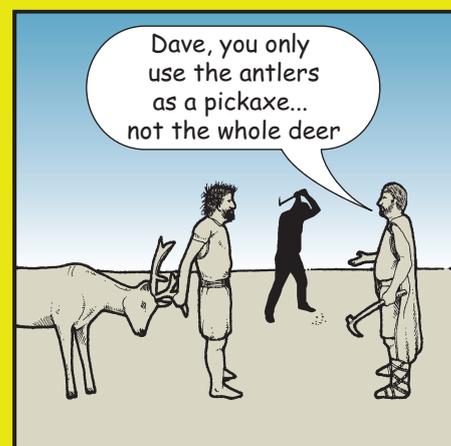
500,000 tonnes of soil and chalk were needed to build it

Well done everyone. That's the first day over. Only another 3,649 days to go.



Building the hill would have taken 500 people working every day for 10 years

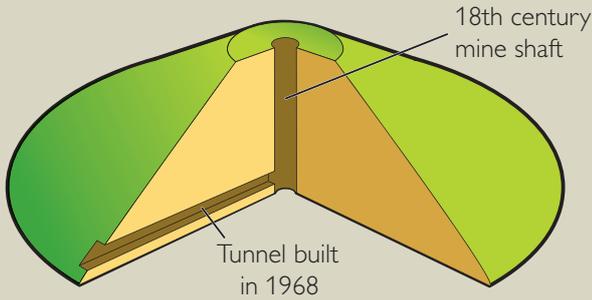
Dave, you only use the antlers as a pickaxe... not the whole deer



Their only tools were deer antlers, animal shoulder blades, flint tools and woven baskets

④ Archaeology at Silbury Hill

In 2007 engineers and archaeologists cleared out old tunnels and a shaft in the hill which were collapsing, and repacked them with chalk.



How long was the 1968 tunnel?

Clue: The diameter at the base is 160m. The tunnel went half way into the hill.

Why do you think people in the past dug tunnels into the middle of the hill?

Archaeologists found evidence that people started to build Silbury Hill about 2400BC. How long ago is that?

⑤ We know lots of facts about it, but we don't know why it was built!

So what do you think it was for?	Probably	Possibly	Unlikely
1. a fort			
2. a meeting place			
3. a burial chamber			
4. a frontier post			
5. to show how rich and important the leader was			
6. a place to make offerings to the gods			
7. a place for ceremonies			
8. your own idea			

Discuss your answers with your class

⑥ Here are some of the things the archaeologists found:



Flint tools and small pieces of flint left over from tool-making

What do you think the flint tools were used for?



Lots of small pieces of antler

Why were there so many broken bits of antler in the hill?



An animal's shoulder blade that could have been used as a shovel

Is it complete or is it broken?

⑦

Some things to think about

Do you think visitors should be allowed to climb up Silbury Hill?

Why?

Why might it be a bad idea?

Can you collect some words to take away with you that describe Silbury Hill?

Here are a few to start your collection:

ANCIENT

enormous

silent