



THE AVEBURY MONUMENTS TEACHER'S KIT

INCLUDES:

- Your visit • History • Teacher's information and pupil investigation sheets for each monument •
- Teaching approaches • Pupil activity sheets • Timeline • Glossary • Image bank •

UNITS OF STUDY:

- How do heritage sites inform us about our local area in prehistoric times?
- What was it like to live here in the past?

→ YOUR VISIT

Aims

The Avebury Monuments Teacher's Kit aims to give teachers and pupils at Key Stages 2 and 3 resources to help ensure an enjoyable and valuable learning experience when they visit the site.

Avebury forms one half of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site.

UNESCO's World Heritage list includes sites such as the Pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall of China. Avebury is significant because of the number and importance of Neolithic (Stone Age) monuments, in their remarkable prehistoric landscape setting.



Contents of the Teacher's Kit

The history of the Avebury Monuments

The pages of background information about the Avebury area are for both teachers and older pupils. They are designed to make it easier to understand the chronology of the Avebury monuments and to give an overview of the time when they were built.

Resources

Investigate Sheets

The Investigate sheets are designed to stimulate children to look at, think about and discuss the Avebury monuments. There are Investigate sheets for Avebury Henge and West Kennet Avenue, Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow.

Information Sheets

These pages give teachers information about each of the monuments they are likely to visit with their pupils. The information sheets cover Avebury Henge and the West Kennet Avenue, Silbury Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow, Windmill Hill and the Sanctuary. The information sheets should also be useful for older pupils. Supporting Notes, at the back of each Information Sheet, give the answers to the questions posed in the pupils' Investigate sheets. There are also suggested follow-up activities to be used in school after a visit to the Avebury Monuments.

Support resources

Five activity sheets are included in the pack. They are for use in school before or after a visit to the Avebury Monuments.

Timeline jigsaw

What did it look like 4000 years ago?

Puzzle objects

Moving the stones

A search for buried treasure

(includes a map of the Avebury monuments)

Image Bank

Copies of most of the pictures used in the Teacher's Kit have been put into an Image Bank. You can use the Image Bank to show your pupils photographs of the monuments today and artists' impressions of what life was like at the time when the monuments were constructed.

Glossary

Some of the words used in the study of prehistoric sites like Avebury may be unfamiliar to teachers and pupils so a glossary page is included with this pack.

Differentiation

The materials in the pack vary in difficulty. Some are designed for Key Stage 2 and some are better suited to Key Stage 3. Teachers are invited to choose those best suited to their own pupils and adapt them to their needs.

Avebury in the Curriculum

Changes to the primary and secondary curriculum have made it easier for teachers to broaden the curriculum and to include the study of prehistory in their teaching. The activities and suggestions in this pack have been designed to be cross-curricular, offering particular support to literacy, numeracy, history, geography, science, art and citizenship.

There is now a scheme of work for a Key Stage 2 prehistory study unit on the QCA website at;

<http://www.qca.org.uk/history/innovating/key2/planning/qca-sow/> which will provide additional help and ideas. A selection of activities devised to support the QCA scheme of work is available on the English Heritage website:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.10599> and the Wessex Archaeology website:

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/learning/resources.html>

The scheme of work includes an activity introducing other World Heritage Sites.

To find out more about World Heritage go to <http://whc.unesco.org/>

To find out more about Avebury go to

<http://www.kennet.gov.uk/environment/avebury-world-heritage-site.htm>

Hazard Information

Teachers will need to make their own preliminary visits to Avebury in order to formulate a risk assessment for their pupils.

Points to look out for are:

- Vehicles: a fairly busy road bisects the Henge at Avebury. Each section is well-fenced and the crossings are gated, but care is needed crossing from one part of the monument to another. A minor road passes through the site and it is necessary to walk along it to reach the Museum.
- The Sanctuary is unsuitable for a school visit because it is right beside a busy road. The lay-by there is too narrow to allow pupils to disembark from a coach safely.
- Slipping/tripping hazards: all the monuments are grassed and can be slippery when wet. Care is needed when moving from one place to another and running should not be permitted.

Points to note

- Walking from Avebury Henge to a good viewing point for Silbury Hill takes half an hour and is a pleasant, cross-country route.
- It is better to go to West Kennet by coach and there is a

lay-by where pupils can be dropped off.

- Damage to the monuments: climbing on the stones is inadvisable and clambering up and down the banks can cause erosion.
- All the monuments are open to the elements and suitable clothing and footwear are essential.
- Pupils with disabilities may find moving around the monuments difficult, although access to both the Alexander Keiller Museum and The Barn is possible for wheelchair users.

On Site facilities

There are two museums at Avebury. The Alexander Keiller Museum contains information about the monuments and finds from twentieth century excavations. The Barn explains the chronological development of the Avebury monuments and their prehistoric background.

Behind the Barn is an Education Study Centre which is free to schools. Free gallery talks are also available to education groups. Both should be booked in advance by ringing the National Trust 01672 539250 between 9.00am - 5.00pm weekdays.

There is a small shop in The Barn and a National Trust Shop close by. A café serves tea, coffee and light lunches.



The Avebury Monuments Teacher's Kit has been produced for English Heritage by Wessex Archaeology Ltd

