

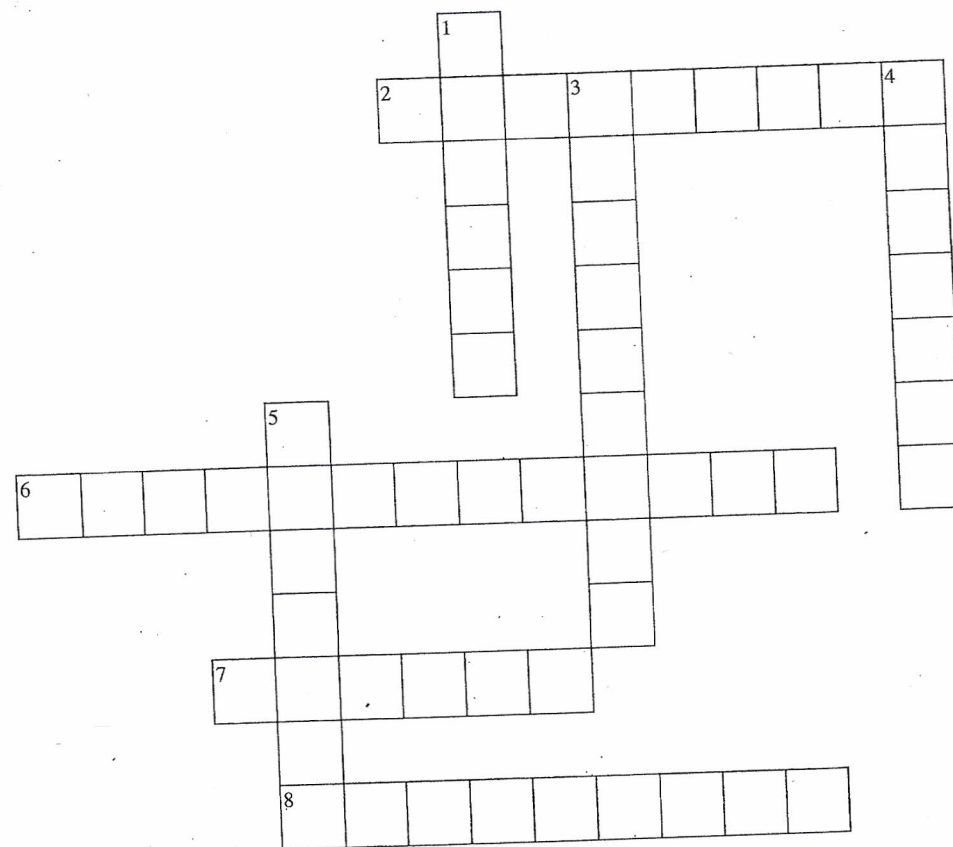
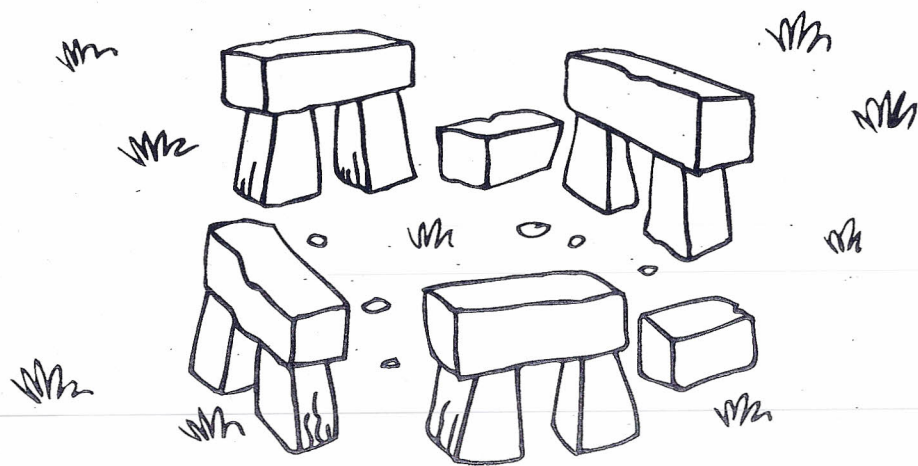
Mystery at Stonehenge

History Mystery

The mystery of Stonehenge began around 3000 B.C., somewhere north of Salisbury, England. It was first a circle-shaped ditch over 340 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. Over the next 2,000 years, earth, stone, and wooden structures were added.

Researchers believe that people dragged the stones, some weighing fifty-five tons, to the site. Parts of Stonehenge are no longer standing—they were torn down by Romans between 55 B.C. and A.D. 400. Experts have to make educated guesses to figure out what things may have looked like. The outer ring made of sandstone and the inner horseshoe were built around 1900 B.C. The center stones are grouped in threes. These are inside a ring of large rocks that have horizontal stones called *lintels* across the top. It must have been difficult to lay those rocks!

No one knows for sure who built Stonehenge or why. In 1964, American astronomer Gerald S. Hawkins used a computer and measurements from Stonehenge to come to some conclusions. It may have been built as a monument to measure the sun's position and find the exact length of the year. It could have been a simple daily calendar. Its builders may have used it to predict the seasons or an eclipse of the sun. One thing is certain—they couldn't predict that Stonehenge would become such a mystery in the future.



Across

2. the shape made by the inner stones
6. when experts use their knowledge to figure out what may have happened (two words)
7. a horizontal stone across two other stones
8. Some of the blocks were made from this type of stone.

Down

1. They tore down part of Stonehenge.
3. near where Stonehenge is located
4. an event Stonehenge may have been used to predict
5. an American astronomer who used a computer to make some conclusions about Stonehenge

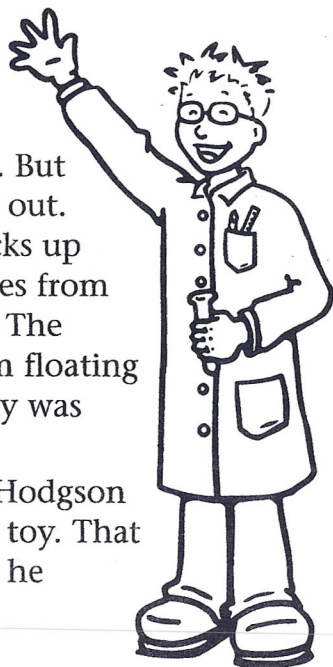
Sorry! My Mistake...

In 1943, James Wright accidentally dropped boric acid into silicone oil, and a toy was on its way to fame. General Electric, James's employer, shared the mixture with scientists. But no one thought it was better than the synthetic rubber that had already been made. As a scientific discovery, James Wright's mistake was a flop.

Then, in 1949, an unemployed advertising man named Peter Hodgson went to the home of some friends. There, James Wright's gloppy substance was the life of the party. Peter thought it would make a great toy. He borrowed \$147 and bought the production rights from General Electric. Then he began making "Silly Putty." Almost every toy maker advised him to give up his idea. He didn't. Silly Putty was first packaged in a plastic egg because it was being sold right before Easter. It was not long before Silly Putty became a sensation that would make millions of dollars for the former ad man.

Silly Putty seems like it is solid, but it's actually liquid. It does some very strange things. It can stretch like a rubber band, but you can snap it apart. It bounces higher than a rubber ball. It floats if it's in the right shape, and it sinks if it's not. If you make it into a ball and pound it with a hammer, it stays a ball. But if you press it lightly, you can flatten it out. It picks up dirt, lint, and pet hair. It picks up pencil marks from paper and the funnies from newspaper. It is even out of this world. The Apollo 8 crew used it to keep tools from floating in space. On March 28, 2001, Silly Putty was chosen to be in the Toy Hall of Fame.

By the time he died in 1976, Peter Hodgson had made 140 million dollars with his toy. That is nearly one million times the money he invested.



1. In paragraph two the phrase "life of the party" means _____.

- A. caused a lot of trouble
- B. everyone loved it
- C. it acted like it was alive

2. Silly Putty was packaged in an egg because _____.

- A. it could run all over like an egg yolk
- B. they got a good price for the eggs
- C. it was being sold right before Easter

3. The toy was probably named Silly Putty because _____.

- A. it was able to do some strange things
- B. everyone laughed when they saw it
- C. you could use it to copy silly jokes from books

4. The main idea of the article is _____.

- A. a mistake can be a good thing
- B. everyone loves toys
- C. you should take the blame for your mistakes

5. If Peter Hodgson had taken the advice and given up, _____.

- A. the "gloppy substance" would probably have been thrown away.
- B. General Electric would probably have hired him.
- C. he might have gone into outer space.

The Snake Charmer

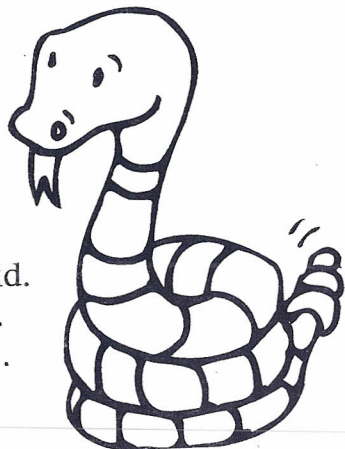
There was a snake charmer named Raj who lived with his wife, Akba, on the banks of the Ganges River. They were poor but happy. Every morning Raj carried his mat, his pipe, and a pot with his deadly snake inside to the village square. First he unrolled his mat and sat down. Then he took the lid off the pot and began to play his pipe.

People would come to see. The snake would slowly poke its head out of the pot, swaying to the music. People threw coins but did not come too close because the snake was a poisonous cobra. When the sun went down, Raj stopped playing. The snake sank into the pot, and Raj put on the lid. He rolled up the mat, tucked his pipe under his arm, and carried the pot home.

One night Raj got the idea to take his snake to the city. "There are more people there, and they have more money to spend," he said. So Raj left early the next day. When he reached the city, he sat and began to play. The snake rose out of the pot, and the crowd loved it. They threw many gold coins.

When the sun went down, Raj gathered his things and hurried home. He didn't see three robbers following after him. When he reached his home, Akba was pleased but worried. "We must hide the coins where no one will find them," she said. So she put them in a pot. Then she put both that pot and the snake pot high on a shelf to keep them safe.

Outside, the robbers saw all this. "We'll have to stand on each other's shoulders to get to the window," they said. The smallest climbed up and got the pot. Together they hurried back to their den...



1. Where did the snake charmer live with his wife?
 - A. on the village square
 - B. in the city
 - C. on the banks of the Ganges River
2. Number the following in the order Raj did them.
___ took the lid off the pot
___ unrolled his mat and sat down
___ began to play his pipe
___ carried his things to the village square
3. Raj decided to take his snake to the city because _____.
 - A. he would make more money there
 - B. he was tired of the village
 - C. the people in his village didn't want a poisonous snake there
4. Which of these could really happen?
 - A. The snake demands his share of the gold coins.
 - B. The coins turn into rice.
 - C. The robbers steal the pot of coins.
5. Which of the following will probably happen next?
 - A. The robbers will feel bad and take the pot back.
 - B. The robbers will open the pot, and the snake will pop out.
 - C. Raj and Akba will share the money with the robbers.