

# Mysteries of the World: Stonehenge

## Glossary of terms:

**Celestial equator:** the imaginary great circle that represents the intersection of the plane of the Earth's equator with the celestial sphere. The celestial sphere is the imaginary sphere that apparently encloses the universe. [Click here to see a picture.](#)

**Solstice:** the two times during the year when the sun is at the greatest distance from the celestial equator. The summer solstice is the longest day of the year - June 21st or 22nd. The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year - December 21st or 22nd.

**Equinox:** the two times during the year when the centre of the sun crosses the celestial equator and day and night are of equal length all over the earth. The dates are March 21st and September 22nd.

**Eclipse:** a darkening of the sun or moon by some other heavenly body. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth. A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon enters the earth's shadow.

**Druid:** one of an ancient Celtic priesthood appearing in Irish and Welsh stories and Christian legends as magicians and wizards.

**Megalith:** a very large, usually rough stone used in prehistoric cultures as a monument or building block.

**Lintel:** a horizontal beam or stone over a door that carries the weight of the wall above it.