
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Stonehenge tunnel



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

The mysterious, **prehistoric** site of Stonehenge.

It's **captured the imagination** of British people for centuries. Even today it's the place to go for tourists and **druids**.

Now, there are **controversial** plans to build a tunnel under the Stonehenge area. It's part of a big scheme **to ease** congestion.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites said it wants a solution that respects the value of this "unique" site.

Vocabulary

prehistoric

describes the time before history was written down

captured the imagination

made people interested (in something)

druids

priests of an ancient religion followed in Britain, France and Ireland

controversial

(here) causing disagreement

to ease

to make a problem less severe or difficult

Watch the video online: Stonehenge tunnel <http://tinyurl.com/kz5kj9b>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

prehistoric / captured the imagination / druids / controversial / to ease

1. But there is something about Mars, in particular, that has always _____.

Through a small telescope, dark patches can be seen against the Red Planet's disc. Mars is a dusty world, and right up until the start of the space age it was believed that these were patches of vegetation.

2. Mrs Marshall, 97, from Bradford, has suffered from arthritis for more than 10 years.

She used to take pain killers daily _____ the pain, but last summer her pain killers seemed to lose their effect.

3. US customs agents say they have seized eight tonnes of _____ fossils - including dinosaur eggs - which they suspect were smuggled from Argentina.

4. Scores of _____ have celebrated the summer solstice at an ancient stone circle despite a recent vandal attack.

5. An exhibition featuring the work of the _____ artist Allen Jones RA is opening in the Royal Academy of Arts on Thursday.

One of the reasons why Mr Jones's art work is famous is because some have labelled it as morally repugnant in its objectification of women.

Answers

1. But there is something about Mars, in particular, that has always **captured the imagination**.

Through a small telescope, dark patches can be seen against the Red Planet's disc. Mars is a dusty world, and right up until the start of the space age it was believed that these were patches of vegetation.

Source: The long quest for life on Mars

<http://tinyurl.com/m36so2h>

2. Mrs Marshall, 97, from Bradford, has suffered from arthritis for more than 10 years.

She used to take pain killers daily **to ease** the pain, but last summer her pain killers seemed to lose their effect.

Source: DIY device to reduce pain

<http://tinyurl.com/o2u84x2>

3. US customs agents say they have seized eight tonnes of **prehistoric** fossils - including dinosaur eggs - which they suspect were smuggled from Argentina.

Source: 'Fossils for sale' seized in US

<http://tinyurl.com/q4xfzgn>

4. Scores of **druids** have celebrated the summer solstice at an ancient stone circle despite a recent vandal attack.

Source: Solstice druids gather at stones

<http://tinyurl.com/lvodujs>

5. An exhibition featuring the work of the **controversial** artist Allen Jones RA is opening in the Royal Academy of Arts on Thursday.

One of the reasons why Mr Jones's art work is famous is because some have labelled it as morally repugnant in its objectification of women.

Source: Will Gompertz blog: Do Allen Jones's sculptures objectify women?

<http://tinyurl.com/lkg9crt>