

Objectives	Resources
<p>We are learning to.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">analyse and exploit the stylistic conventions of travel writing (S7)appreciate how travel writing can be entertaining (TLR7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource sheets as attachedText-type cards for starterOHP and OHP pensMini-wipeboards and pens (optional) <p>This lesson complements a mini-unit on travel writing that can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/midbins/keystage3/Travel_tell.PDF</p>

Starter (5 minutes)

- Give pairs three cards, each bearing a snippet from three text-types: geography, holiday brochure, travel journalism (see resource). Pairs identify which is which. How do they know? In other words, what are the diagnostic features of each?
- Take feedback and discuss

Know (5 minutes)

- Explain the objectives
- Ask the class what they know about Stonehenge. Have they been there? What was it like?
- Read class the first three paragraphs of the *Road to Ruins* text.
- Take further pupil contributions if relevant.

Show (5 minutes)

- Display *Road to Ruins* OHT and model analysing it with particular attention to how the author tries to entertain the reader. (See teacher guide sheet)

Share (5 minutes)

- Ask for pupil contributions to your analysis

Pair (5 minutes)

- Now ask pairs to complete the analysis of the OHT for a couple of minutes

Perfect (5 minutes)

- Give pairs a copy of the whole article and assign each pair a couple of paragraphs to read and to identify a bit where the writer is not entirely serious. How do they know? How could the bit be re-written to be neutral?

Reflect (12 minutes)

- Take feedback and return to the objectives
- Now tell the class that you missed off the last two sentences of the second-to-last paragraph (after "hyperactive family"). Ask what might have been in those last two sentences
- Show second OHT, concealing the bottom half, and tell the class that this is your re-write of the last two sentences to keep the same information but making it duller
- Ask pairs to discuss how to re-write these sentences to make them fit the style and attitude of the rest of the article. Pairs could use a mini-wipeboard. (Three minutes)
- Take feedback, then reveal and discuss the original sentence

With one of the most spectacular coastlines in France encompassing granite cliffs, rocky inlets, sandy bays and colourful fishing harbours, Brittany boasts a proud sea-faring tradition.

Brittany is a peninsula and because it is almost surrounded by water, its weather often changes. The Western coast is often damp and misty – especially during late Autumn and early Spring.

Leaving Brittany's coastal port of Roscoff we drove inland to the historic town of Morlaix and began our hunt for somewhere to stay. What a delightful and confusing town Morlaix turned out to be!

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Road to ruins

...We were among the earliest of the 20th-century Thermos Folk to visit the site. It was the Beaker Folk who started building Stonehenge 5,000 years ago. But statistics prove that it was us Thermos Folk who put this neck of Wiltshire on the tourist map and created its modern difficulties - hordes of us, with our flasks and picnics, created by the explosion of postwar leisure motoring.

Now the experience has been transformed. Any parent who brakes hard on the A303 these days gets a juggernaut up their Baby On Board sticker. Instead, you turn on to the A344 and park for free in a well-concealed car park near the stones: if you can find a space in summer. Once arrived, you go through a tunnel under the A344, flanked by atrocious Conan The Barbarian-style murals, to a rough, circular path 10 metres from the monument....

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Use of first person 'we' and 'us' to personalise the article

title evokes 'road to ruin', suggesting that disaster is looming

Jokey contrast with Beaker Folk. Self-mockery

Article uses a combination of the colloquial and formal styles (e.g. "neck of Wiltshire")

Slang (from 'neck of the woods') conveys mocking tone again

Choice of exaggerated term, 'hordes', again carries an air of (self-) mockery

Off-hand, mocking tone continued here. "Gets a...up their..." makes reader anticipate *arse* or *backside* as completion. This construction implies the familiar, rude completion, but also implies mockery of modern styles, here represented by the familiar sticker

(Compare with other possible choices – crowds, masses, loads)

Choice of informal, everyday 'stones' rather than technical term. This enhances air of disrespect?

This might suggest sensitivity to environment; but it also implies that the Stonehenge managers are being crafty and trying to conceal the attraction from visitors

This loose, punctuation-free sentence and use of 'you' enhances the off-hand, weary tone. Compare with: "Shortly after the A344 turning off the A303, there is a free car park that is very close to Stonehenge, but is easy to miss."

Compare with: "The car park connects to Stonehenge by a brightly painted tunnel."

Road to ruins

*Plans are afoot to transform Stonehenge in the next few years. **John Ezard** visits the focus of this weekend's summer solstice*

The Guardian, Saturday June 21, 2003

You still feel it, however long it is since you last saw Stonehenge - an odd lurch in the pit of the stomach when your car crests Countess Hill on the A303 and it first comes into view: this little cluster of part-broken stone toadstools in the middle of open countryside.

The lurch in the stomach is as primitive as the instinct for flight, but opposite to it. This is the urge to get closer, to look, possibly to take part with other people in some ceremony whose moves, words and purposes have been forgotten. It is a profound, formless urge, hardly ever felt in daily modern life, but one element of it is familiar from other travel experiences. This element is awe at seeing a wonder of the world, at encountering a great work of human skill and human hands, however unfathomable the reasons for the labours that went into its creation. Stonehenge is Britain's most important ancient monument, unique in the world.

I first felt its pull as a schoolboy, decades ago, when our Morris 8 came over the same hill on the A303, then called the A30, the Great West Road from Devon to London. At that time, when there was virtually no traffic on the roads, my parents' reaction was uncomplicated. We came to a sudden halt on the grass verge, got out our Thermos flask and sandwiches, walked over and gawped. We could have touched - even hugged - the stones with nobody and nothing to stop us.

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Now the experience has been transformed. Any parent who brakes hard on the A303 these days gets a juggernaut up their Baby On Board sticker. Instead, you turn on to the A344 and park for free in a well-concealed car park near the stones: if you can find a space in summer. Once arrived, you go through a

tunnel under the A344, flanked by atrocious Conan The Barbarian-style murals, to a rough, circular path 10 metres from the monument. This is where the stones still rule. Here, in this small fenced enclave with no intrusive signage or litter bins, the stones are free to impose themselves on you.

The bigger stones are pinched at the waist or the neck, so that their tops look bulbous, knobbed into odd shapes. Sparrows peck for grubs in the crevices, an aerobatic cloud of starlings prattles overhead. Standing in front of one of the trilithons, a US sightseer asks his son, "Want me to look as if I'm holding it up?" No, indicates the son with the camera, I don't think you do that here. This is a place that may once have been a cathedral, and was certainly a cemetery.

Within the next four to six years, the Stonehenge experience will be transformed drastically. The awesome view from Countess Hill will disappear - a regrettable loss. That stretch of the A303 will be tunnelled; the A344's traffic will be diverted, restoring comparative silence. Motorised visitors will be diverted to a mammoth new £57m visitor centre near the Countess A303 roundabout about two miles away. From there, they will be taken closer to the monument by bus; but they will be expected to walk 20 minutes (about a mile) there and 20 minutes back.

For those with stamina, fitness and time, the gains will be immense. With roads gone and fences down, future visitors should be able to roam this National Trust landscape of 590 hectares (1,450 acres) on footpaths and tracks as if it were a history park. Exploring this network of remnants should fill a week's break for the most hyperactive family.

The bookshop bristles with stimulating, unproven explanations for Stonehenge. Take your pick from primeval computers, celestial observatories, calendars, sun worship, human sacrifice, ley lines, orgies, aliens, and psychic powerhouses. The down-to-earth message, from a loyal and nostalgic descendant of the Thermos Folk, is this: if you want a quick, restricted but rewarding look at the place and its mysteries without having to leave your car and walk for miles, get there very quickly, before English Heritage starts digging up the roads.

Exploring this network of remnants should fill a week's break for the most hyperactive family. They will be able to explore freely, although they will still not be allowed to climb on the stones, have picnics on them, or deface them in any way. They will find the new arrangement very enjoyable.

Exploring this network of remnants should fill a week's break for the most hyperactive family. As long as they don't clamber on the stones, inscribe them with 'Jen loves Sam', or use them as tables for eating their Macdonald's equivalent of a picnic, then they will be free to explore to their hearts' content. What could be more wonderful than that?

We are learning to.....

- analyse and exploit the stylistic conventions of travel writing
- appreciate how travel writing can be entertaining

KEY WORDS:

- irony
- description
- mockery
- humour
- detail
- exaggeration