

Stonehenge and the Summer Solstice



Have you heard of the *summer solstice*? In Japanese, you say 「夏至」. The UK and Japan are both in the northern hemisphere, so we experience this event on the same day, June 21st.

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year, when the sun climbs its highest into the sky. Of course, the sun isn't really climbing, but that's how it looks to us from Earth.

For most people in the UK, the summer solstice is just another day and not something we celebrate, but for a few, it is a big day of celebration. People travel from all over the world to gather at Stonehenge for a night of celebration, worship and partying.

Stonehenge is one of the most famous, and oldest monuments in the world, with over 5000 years of history. The stones were put there by *druids*, to mark the summer and winter solstices. On June 21st, the sun will rise exactly between two of the stones. As the sun rises, Stonehenge will become illuminated beautifully by the light of the sun.



You can watch the event live on Youtube. Let's hope it's a nice clear day!

[Summer Solstice 2023: Sunrise Live from Stonehenge - YouTube](#)



Vocabulary:

Summer solstice – 夏至

Winter solstice – 冬至

Northern hemisphere – 北半球

Worship – 崇拜

Monument – 記念碑

Druid – ドルイド層

To mark ○○ – ○○を記念する

Illuminated – 照らされる