

Related topics: History of Art – History of Scotland – Prehistory
– Archaeology – Architecture – Cultural Heritage Protection

*
* *

Let's watch a video :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv60ekB8teA>

*
* *

Skara Brae is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skaill on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland.

Consisting of ten clustered houses, made of flagstones¹, in earthen dams² that provided support for the walls; the houses included stone hearths, beds, and cupboards.

The site was occupied from roughly 3180 BC to about 2500 BC and is Europe's most complete Neolithic village. Skara Brae gained UNESCO World Heritage Site status as one of four sites making up "The Heart of Neolithic Orkney" in 1999. Older than Stonehenge (constructed from 3000 BC to 2000 BC) and the Great Pyramids (between 2600 and 2500 BC), it has been called the "Scottish Pompeii"³ because of its excellent preservation.⁴

*
* *

Directions

1. What is this video about?
2. Describe the picture (Figure 1). Can you see a hearth, a bed, a cupboard?
3. Draw a timeline showing the dates mentioned in the text and video.
4. How far is Skara Brae from London and Paris?
5. How far is Skara Brae from the sea according to figure 3? (The sea is the triangle in the top left corner).
6. We want to build a fence around Skara Brae to protect it. How long should the fence be?
7. What about building a roof over Skara Brae? How big would it be?
8. On the next page is a map of Skara Brae. Ask yourself a geometry question about it and answer it. You will share your questions with another student in the class. Make sure that you can help the other pupil if they need it.

Figure 1: A house at Skara Brae



Figure 2: Map of the UK with Skara Brae



Figure 3: Map of Skara Brae



¹ A flagstone is a flat stone.

² A dam is a barrier which stops the flow of water.

³ Pompeii is a Roman city destroyed in 79 AD by a volcano.

⁴ Source: Wikipedia / Photograph: Daniel Bordeleau CC-by-SA

