



Newgrange

A Search for Meaning

What is the Human Search for Meaning?

As humans, at some point in our lives, we ask ourselves difficult questions about life and its meaning. Some people turn to religious beliefs and morals and others turn to their own morals, and how they feel they should live their lives. For many years it has been seen that humans have pondered the meaning of life, it can be seen through art, architecture, music, literature and many more. Each person has their own individual meaning of life as no one life is the same.



Sámpla 2

The Big Questions in Life

Some of the bigger questions in life are as followed:

1. What is the purpose of life?
2. Why am I here?
3. What makes for happiness?
4. Can one life make a difference?
5. What happens when we die?
6. Is there a God/Gods/Divine Reality?
7. Why is there suffering?
8. Is there a heaven?

What is Newgrange?

Newgrange is a Neolithic passage tomb (a narrow passageway that is build with large stones, and then covered with earth and stone. They contain one or more burial chambers also) in which can be dated back to 3,200 B.C, making it older than the Egyptian Pyramids! Newgrange has a corbelled roof which is a roof that is in the shape of a dome, made by overlapping stones until they meet at the top. After the corbelled roof was put into place, a capstone was put in on top. The roof was built so well that even to this day, there are no water leakages in the chambers. On the outside of the chambers, and around the entrance, there are great big stones that are decorated with beautiful and intricate carvings of spiral patterns.



On the winter solstice of each year, when the sun rises, it shines through the roof-box, lighting up the passage of the chamber. Newgrange is said by archaeologists to be built for religious, astrological and spiritual reasons, and overall for ceremonies.



Sámpla 2

The Winter Solstice



The darkest day of the year, December 21st, is the winter solstice. This day is when in the chamber of Newgrange, the light from the rising sun comes the roof-box, lighting up the entire passage in the chamber. Due to the idea that the purpose of Newgrange was for spiritual, astrological and religious ceremonial reasons, the light coming through on the darkest day of the year could suggest hope, and that they may be life after death or it could suggest that they believed in a God, Gods or a Divine Reality. Overall, it seems that the purpose of the light coming through could either be for religious reasons, or to demonstrate hope to people even on the darkest day of the year.

What questions does it bring up about life?

When we look at Newgrange it becomes exceedingly clear that even the people in the Neolithic period in Ireland could have believed in some form of life after death. Newgrange is a passage tomb, meaning that it was used for burials, which puts forth the idea that these people could have possibly believed in life after death, or even a God, Gods or Divine Reality. Thinking about the winter solstice, Newgrange was built in a way that the light shines through on the chamber, which suggests that even though it is the darkest day of the year, there is still light; therefore there is still hope. Other questions that are brought up in terms of Newgrange are why is there suffering and is there a heaven due to the fact that Newgrange was used for burials.



Sámpla 2

What Does Newgrange Mean to Me?

When I think of Newgrange and its meaning, I see the light coming through on the darkest day of the year as a symbol of hope and reflection. Newgrange is a passage tomb, so for light to be coming in on the darkest day of the year could give someone the chance to reflect on their life and lives of the people around them, and give hope for the future ahead. I chose Newgrange because I have an interest in the architecture and the art used in Newgrange, and how that suggests different interpretation of the meaning of life.

Reflection

Overall, Newgrange is an extremely important part of Irish heritage and history. Is it important to history and it suggests the beliefs of the people of Neolithic Ireland. Many different questions revolving around the meaning of life can be found when examining Newgrange. Some being:

- What happens when we die?
- Is there a God/Gods/Divine Reality?
- Why is there suffering?
- Is there a heaven?

Newgrange was used for burials, meaning that the people of the time could have believed in a God, Gods or Divine Reality and questioned what happens after death. In addition to that, it could also bring up the idea of why is there suffering because they buried people there, further asking if there is a heaven or something after death. Newgrange was built in a way that even on the darkest day of the year, the light still shines through, suggesting hope and reflection. The meaning of life is different for everyone, and each person will interpret Newgrange and the part it plays on the meaning of life differently, but it is clear that Newgrange and the people who built it brings up many of the different questions that revolve around the meaning of life.

After completing this project, I feel that I have learned more about the meaning of life and the questions that go along with it, and how it can be interpreted through architecture and art.



Sámpla 2

Sources Used

- [Newgrange Stone Age Passage Tomb - Boyne Valley, Ireland](#)
- [Newgrange Winter Solstice - Sunrise Alignment](#)
- [Newgrange | Built heritage | Brú na Bóinne | World Heritage | World Heritage Ireland](#)
- Artefact Junior Cycle History Book



Sámpla 2

NÓTAÍ ANÓTÁILTE AN MHÚINTEORA

Gnéithe Cáilíochta 1 Léiríonn an tuairisc dea-thaighde ar Bhrú na Bóinne agus tá seo soiléir i sleamhnáin 3, 5 agus 6 go háirithe. Tá sé inmholta go bhfuil na foinsí a úsáideadh curtha san áireamh, ach dá gcuirfí foinsí reiligiúnacha san áireamh bheadh sé ina chabhair chun a chinntiú go ndírítear níos soiléire ar an tasc. Teastaíonn tuilleadh taighde agus tuisceana ar na cleachtais adhlactha réamh-Chríostaí agus deasghnátha an ghrianstad chun a fhiosrú go hiomlán cén chaoi a léiríonn Brú na Bóinne tóraíocht na ndaoine neoiliteacha chun freagraí a aimsiú ar cheisteanna móra an tsaoil. D'fhéadfadh an taighde dul níos faide trí aird an léitheora a tharraingt ar ghnéithe breise ealaíonta agus ailtireachta taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh de Bhrú na Bóinne a léiríonn an chaoi ar dhear ár sinsir Brú na Bóinne mar iarracht ciall a bhaint as a ndomhan agus ciall dá saol a chur in iúl.

Gnéithe Cáilíochta 2 Deirtear sa tuairisc gur féidir teacht ar cheithre cheist a bhaineann le ciall na beatha nuair atáthar ag scrúdú Bhrú na Bóinne. Bheadh sé tairbheach don tuairisc díriú ar go díreach ceann nó dhó de cheisteanna móra mar ní thugtar faoi roinnt de na ceisteanna sa tuairisc, amhail cén fáth a bhfuil fulaingt ann agus an bhfuil neamh ann? Cuirtear fianaise mhaith ar fáil sa tuairisc gur chreid daoine a mhair in Éirinn níos mó ná 3,000 bliain ó shin i saol tar éis an bháis, gur chreid siad sa dóchas sna huaireanta is dorcha agus b'fhéidir fiú i nDia nó i Réaltacht Dhiaga.

Gnéithe Cáilíochta 3 Léiríonn an scoláire roinnt fianaise ar mhachnamh sa sleamhnán deiridh nuair a admhaíonn sé/sí go léirmhíneoidh gach duine Brú na Bóinne agus an pháirt a imríonn sé maidir le tabhairt faoi cheisteanna faoi bhrí na beatha ar bhealach difriúil. Cuirtear clabhsúr ar an tuairisc le 'D'fhoghlaim mé faoi chiall na beatha agus ceisteanna a théann léi', ach ní thugtar aon fhaisnéis bhreise faoi seo. D'fhéadfaí an tuairisc a fheabhsú dá roinnfí an scoláire a bhfreagairt phearsanta ar na ceisteanna (cad a tharlaíonn nuair a fhaighimid bás agus an bhfuil Dia/Déithe/réaltacht Dhiaga ann) agus dá léireodh siad cumas dul i ngleic leis na ceisteanna agus a dtáil féin a bhaint.

BREITHIÚNAS FORIOMLÁN:



Ag teacht leis na hionchais