

Raven Hill Discovery Center —



—Where science, history and art connect

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Raven Hill Discovery Center is proud to be the 2005 Crooked Tree Arts Center eddi Award recipient for Arts & Cultural Organizations

Blurred Boundaries Glossary

Avenue: two rows of standing stones, often leading to a stone circle.

Backsight: a place from which to observe an alignment, often a standing stone.

Bonseki (盆石; lit., tray rocks): the ancient Japanese art of creating miniature landscapes on black lacquer trays using white sand, pebbles, and small rocks.

Cairn: a round or long mound of stones, often covering or enclosing a chamber or tomb.

Capstone: the horizontal flat stone at the top of a dolmen.

Cromlech: same as dolmen in Wales, but in France, a stone ring.

Dolmen: a megalithic monument consisting of a large, usually flat stone supported by three or more upright stones. Literally, “table stone.”

Foresight: usually, the second of three objects that are in alignment.

Gnomen: the upright on a sundial that shows the time of day or a perpendicular column erected on level land.

Henge: an earthen ring enclosure with an inner ditch and one or more entrances.

Inuksuk: a word for a vertically standing stone by the Inuit or peoples of the Arctic region of North America.

Jammer (or **packer**): one of a number of smaller stones used to tighten a standing stone in its socket.

Lintel: a horizontal stone supported by two standing stones.

Megalith: literally, “large stone.”

Menhir: a vertical stone, usually standing alone (French).

Meridian: the true north alignment.

Microlith: very small stone.

Minilith: literally, “small stone.”

Monolith: a single standing stone.

Orthostat: an upright, a standing stone.

Outlier: a standing stone found some distance from the main grouping, often used as the foresight or backside of an alignment.

Recumbent stone: a stone deliberately laid on its side in a stone circle.

Socket: the hole in which a standing stone is set, providing a foundation in combination with packers and jammers.

Stone circle: a group of stones arranged in a true circle or any ring of stones.

Stone ring: a ring of stones, usually installed vertically in the ground and usually a circle, ellipse, egg-shape or flattened circle of stones.

Trilithon: two upright stones supporting a lintel.

Majority of terms found in **Stone Circles: A Modern Builder's Guide to the Megalithic Revival** by Rob Roy (Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1999)

Other references:

Overlay: Contemporary Art and the Art of PreHistory by Lucy R. Lippard (Pantheon Books, 1963)