Burial mound, artificial hill of earth and stones built over the remains of the dead. In England the equivalent term is barrow; in Scotland, cairn; and in Europe and elsewhere, tumulus. In western Europe and the British Isles, burial cairns and barrows date primarily from the Neolithic Period (New). Encyclopædia Britannica’s editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History. Burial mound, artificial hill of earth and stones built over the remains of the dead. In England the equivalent term is barrow; in Scotland, cairn; and in Europe and elsewhere, tumulus. Neolithic burial mound, Newgrange, County Meath, Leinster, Ireland. Prehistoric monuments in England, Scotland, and Wales. Who built them and why? Stone circles, barrows, hill figures. Barrow Mounds These are the most numerous of the prehistoric monuments you are likely to encounter (there are over 6000 in the West Country alone). On Ordnance Survey maps these are often marked as "tumuli". Though most tumuli are Bronze Age, this burial form remained in use into the Iron Age and even reappeared in the Dark Ages. There you have it, a mini-guide to the strange and interesting world of ancient remainsthat can be seen around England. Hopefully, you now have enough information to impress your fellow travellers and understand what you are looking at. MORE Prehistoric Britain: Back: The Neolithic Era Next: The Bronze Age. Book Number: 39162 Book Title: Ancient burial mounds of England Book Author: Grinsell, L. V. Book Language: English Number of Pages: 306 Publisher: Methuen; London; 1936 Subject: Burial- England; Mounds and mound builders; Funeral rites and ceremonies Source URL: http://asi.nic.in/asi_books/39162.pdf Year: 1936.