

BEACONS BY THE SEA

Stories of Australian Lighthouses

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
EDUCATION KIT



3a. Student Activity Worksheets — Primary



Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse, TAS NAA: A1200, L20616

**BEACONS BY THE SEA:
STORIES OF AUSTRALIAN LIGHTHOUSES**

Your group members' names:

Welcome to *Beacons by the Sea*. We hope you enjoy your visit.

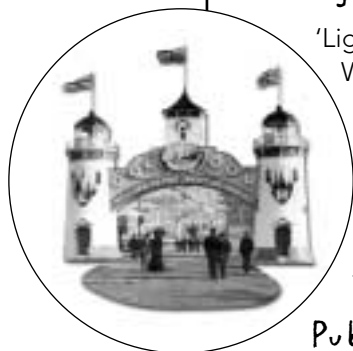
What to do

1. Write your names on the worksheet. Listen to your teacher's instructions about where your group will start the tour.
2. Read the questions on your worksheets carefully and answer each one as you go.
3. Hand in your worksheets to the teacher when you finish exploring the exhibition.



Lighthouses, lightships, beacons & buoys

'Lighthouses were the "traffic-lights" of the national maritime highway'.
What do you think this means?



Public servants at the edge of the sea

If you had been an Australian lighthouse keeper, who would your employer have been?

Were women allowed to join the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service?

Day in, day out

Find the logbook from Cape Borda lighthouse.
What happened on Thursday 29 November 1877?



Writing in the logbook was an important duty for a lighthouse keeper.
Why is paperwork like this important? Where is this paperwork kept now?

What activities would you enjoy doing if you were a lighthouse keeper?

'I herewith beg leave to inform you'



Who was Australia's longest serving lighthouse keeper? People said he was dedicated to 'the Service' – why?

So far away/ The dark side of the lights



Living on a lightstation was a very isolated lifestyle. Imagine your family in this situation. List some of the positive and negative aspects of this life.

Positive

Negative

What kind of work was carried out by pigeons like the one you can see on display?

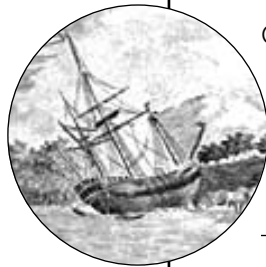
Flagging a message



What do the flags say? Write your answer here.

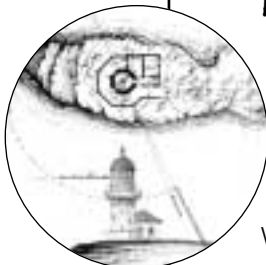
Why do you think it is important that lighthouses have individual flashing patterns?

The eye of the needle



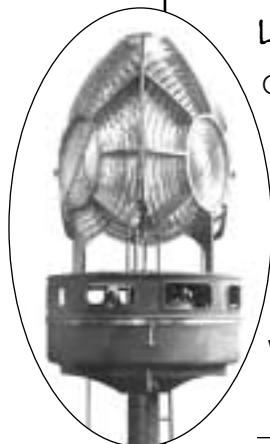
Often lighthouses were built near the sites of shipwrecks on the Australian coastline. Watch some of the video *Shipwreck!* and read the stories about shipwrecks. List some of the factors that may cause a ship to be wrecked.

How to build an Australian lighthouse



Name at least four kinds of building materials used to construct lighthouses.

What is a daymark?



Lost me my job, technology did

Over the past 200 years different forms of fuel have been used to power light houses. Name three kinds of fuel used in the past:

What kind of power would be suitable for a modern lighthouse? Why?

Why did the early lighthouses need a person to be there all night and all day?

Back to life



What do you think should happen to lighthouses which are no longer in use? Make some notes for and against restoring lighthouses as tourist sites.

For:

Against:

Places in the imagination



Has anyone in your group ever visited a lighthouse? Write down a few words about your experience/s.

Look around the exhibition and find a lighthouse design or object that interests you. Draw your selected object in the space below. Write down the information from the label that identifies the object that you have drawn.

While one group member draws, the rest of you should find the map of Australia and locate the lighthouse nearest your school. Write down the name of the lighthouse.

Primary Activity Worksheet Answers



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Lighthouses, lightships, beacons & buoys

- Q. 'Lighthouses were the "traffic-lights" of the national maritime highway'.
What do you think this means?
- A. *Trade, migration and defence were all dependent on safe sea travel.*

Public servants at the edge of the sea

- Q. If you had been an Australian lighthouse keeper, who would your employer have been?
- A. *The Commonwealth Government.*
- Q. Were women allowed to join the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service?
- A. *No.*

Day in, day out

- Q. Find the logbook from Cape Borda Lighthouse. What happened on Thursday 29 November 1877.
- A. *The body of the lighthouse keeper's three-year-old son was found at the bottom of the cliffs below the lighthouse.*
- Q. Writing in the logbook was an important duty for a lighthouse keeper. Why is paperwork like this important? Where is this paperwork kept now?
- A. *Documentation of this sort is important because it provides us with information about the past. The National Archives of Australia keeps valuable Commonwealth records such as these.*
- Q. What activities would you enjoy doing if you were a lighthouse keeper?
- A. *Various.*

'I herewith beg leave to inform you'

- Q. Who was Australia's longest serving lighthouse keeper?
People said he was dedicated to 'the Service' – why?
- A. *Henry Bayles Ford. He stayed at his post until a replacement could be found. Ford's wife had a breakdown and several of his children died during the 30 years he was a lighthouse keeper.*

So far away/ The dark side of the lights

- Q. Living on a lightstation was a very isolated lifestyle. Imagine your family in this situation. List some of the positive and negative aspects of this life.
- A. *Some issues for discussion may include: attending school/virtual school; distance from friends; impact on relationships with parents/siblings; hobbies/pastimes and entertainment; food, access to health care etc.*
- Q. What kind of work was carried out by pigeons like the one you can see on display?
- A. *Carrier pigeons were used for communication between some Tasmanian islands.*

Flagging a message

- Q. What do the flags say? Write your answer here.
- A. *DANGER AHEAD*
- Q. Why do you think it is important that lighthouses have individual flashing patterns?
- A. *Individual flashing patterns help to identify a lighthouse and distinguish one from another.*

Primary Activity Worksheet Answers



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The eye of the needle

- Q. Often lighthouses were built near the sites of shipwrecks on the Australian coastline. Watch some of the video *Shipwreck!* and read the stories about shipwrecks. List some of the factors that may cause a ship to be wrecked.
- A. *Human error, bad weather/sea conditions, errors in navigation, unevenly distributed cargo, lighthouse not working.*

How to build an Australian lighthouse

- Q. Name a least four kinds of building materials used to construct lighthouses.
- A. *Double brick, bluestone, timber frame and corrugated iron, reinforced concrete.*
- Q. What is a daymark?
- A. *The identifying pattern painted on the lighthouse. A plain white lighthouse is also a daymark.*

Lost me my job, technology did

- Q. Over the past 200 years different forms of fuel have been used to power lighthouses. Name three kinds of fuel used in the past.
- A. *Oil, kerosene, acetylene gas.*
- Q. What kind of power would be suitable for a modern lighthouse? Why?
- A. *Solar power, because it is cheap and environmentally friendly.*
- Q. Why did the early lighthouses need a person to be there all night and all day?
- A. *Because the keepers had to wind the clockwork and pump the kerosene at regular intervals to power the lights.*

Back to life

- Q. What do you think should happen to lighthouses which are no longer in use? Make some notes for and against restoring lighthouses as tourist sites.
- A. *For: importance of these in Australian cultural/maritime heritage.
Against: accessibility, cost.*

Places in the imagination

- Q. Has anyone in your group ever visited a lighthouse? Write down a few words about your experience/s.
- A. *Various.*
- Q. Look around the exhibition and find a lighthouse design or object that interests you. Draw your selected object in the space provided. Write down the information from the label that identifies the object that you have drawn.
- A. *(These sketches may be used to generate ideas for 'Activity 8: Places in the imagination').*
- Q. Locate the lighthouse nearest your school on the map in the exhibition.
- A. *Various.*