

Lighthouse Fun For Kids!

Featuring
*School Days for
Lighthouse Kids*



Issue #2

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Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids

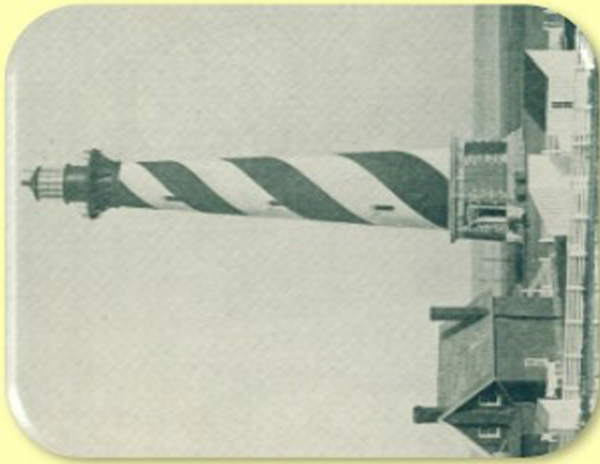


Make Green Sea Foam Dessert!

Green Sea Foam (1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding)
White Wave Tops (small tub of Cool Whip)
Sea Grapes (small can pineapple tidbits with juice)
Seagull Eggs (2 cups mini marshmallows)
Baby Orca Drink (1 cup milk)
Mermaid's Magic Dust (2 tablespoons green sprinkles)
Shark Eyeballs (maraschino cherries)

Mix the Green Sea Foam and Baby Orca Drink with a fork. It will be thick! Add Sea Grapes and their juice and stir well. Fold in White Wave Tops and Seagull Eggs. Mix gently. Spoon into dessert bowls and sprinkle with Mermaid Magic Dust. Top each dessert with a Shark Eyeball. All you need now is a spoon! Yum!

Below is an old photo of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina. Look closely. Stripes wind around the tower. How many black stripes are there? How many white stripes?



What kind of bugs are attracted to the beacon of a lighthouse?
Unscramble the answer:
OHTMS

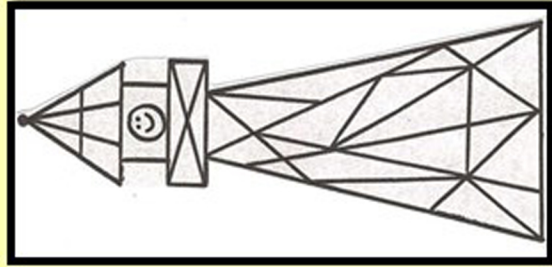




Collect Lighthouses on Postcards!



Get them on your family's travels and vacations!
Swap them with friends!
Use them for your school projects!
Pin them to a bulletin board in your room!
Buy old ones on eBay and from postcard dealers!



Count the triangles in the lighthouse. Don't forget, triangles have only three sides. Some triangles have triangles inside them!

Tongue Twister! Say this sentence ten times really fast!

The little luminous lighthouse lured the lonely lad with its lovely lantern light.

Gotta read a chapter book for school? Try this one if you're in grades 2, 3, or 4.



Did you know?
A lighthouse is actually very heavy.

"I love making lighthouses out of Legos!"



Send us your drawings and paintings of lighthouses! We will print them in "Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids!" Email them to Elinor@uslhs.org



School Days for Lighthouse Kids

An Article for Kids & Adults to Read Together

By Elinor DeWire
Graphic Design By Richard Gales

What was school was like for kids who grew up at lighthouses? It was different, depending on where a lighthouse stood. Families who lived at mainland lighthouses that were near towns simply sent their children to the local school. The kids usually walked to school. Some rode a bus or were driven to school in a wagon or car. Some rode horses to school. Can you imagine riding a horse to school? What would you do with your horse all day while you were in class?

At Cape Meares Lighthouse in Oregon around 1900, the kids went to school on horseback. Their tiny, one-room schoolhouse was a mile from the lighthouse. Their teacher, Miss Endicott, lived at the lighthouse. Yikes! Would you want your teacher to live at your house? School days were only held in summer when the weather was good. Miss Endicott and the kids saddled the lightkeepers' two horses and rode them to the little schoolhouse. The trip was difficult, even in summer, because Cape Meares Lighthouse sat high on a steep hill overlooking the sea. The entire trip to school was downhill, and the trip back home was all uphill. The horses cleverly learned to slide on their butts downhill on the muddy, slippery trail. On the way home, they dug their horseshoes into the trail and climbed like four-legged hikers!

Below is a photo of The Mahler and Morris kids riding on horseback from Cape Meares Lighthouse to school.



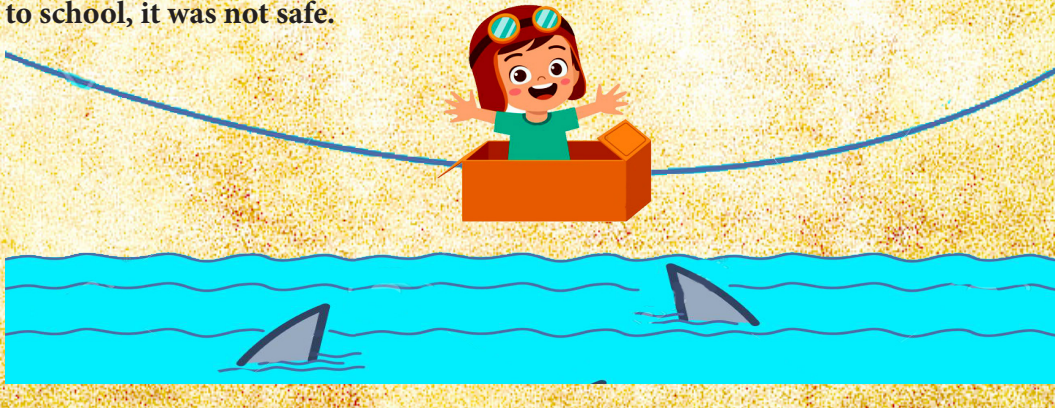


If kids lived at a lighthouse on an island or an offshore rock, they would have taken a boat to school, but only if the water was calm and the weather was not bad. Imagine your school bus is a boat. What fun!

Anyway, before boats had motors, they had oars for rowing. It required strength and skill to row a boat, so an adult usually took the kids to shore in the boat. At Robbins Reef Lighthouse, built on some rocks in New York Harbor, Katie Walker rowed

her two children, Jake and Mary, to shore every morning to attend school on Staten Island, and she rowed back to fetch them after school. This truly was an amazing way for the Walker kids to get to and from school, because Katie Walker was a tiny woman, less than five feet tall. But she could handle a rowboat like an expert! New York Harbor was very busy. Mrs. Walker had to work her way around and between big ships and ferries as she rowed to and from shore. She was determined that her children would get a good education. We posted a great video on Katie Walker online. To watch the video go to our website USLHS.ORG and at the top click News. Then scroll down to: USLHS Historian Video #3 – Kate Walker at Robbins Reef

Perhaps the most curious mode of transportation for a lighthouse kid was at Cape Neddick Lighthouse in Southern Maine in the 1960s. Young Ricky Winchester rode in a wooden box across the narrow channel of water that separated the lighthouse from shore. His father had rigged a pulley system of ropes to get the box to shore and back. Each morning, Ricky got in the box, crossed the channel, and got out when the box reached shore. He did the opposite after school ended for the day. While this seemed a fun way to travel to school, it was not safe.



After a picture of Ricky riding in the box appeared in a newspaper, the Coast Guard put an end to his school-day rides in the box. After that, he got ashore by boat.

Sometimes, lighthouse kids were homeschooled. You might be familiar with this method of schooling from your experiences during the pandemic of Covid-19. Did your parents or grandparents homeschool you? If so, then you were like many lighthouse kids of the past. If lighthouse kids lived on a faraway island, their parents, grandparents, or older siblings were their teachers. Books and lessons were sometimes provided by the government. In 1915, the State of Maine decided to do more by sending a teacher to distant offshore lighthouses a few weeks each year. In the 1920s, Vera Sargent was the teacher. She lodged with the lighthouse families for several weeks and held school each day for the children. After she moved to another lighthouse,



the kids continued Miss Sargent's assignments with their parents' help.



Lighthouse kids also sometimes boarded with family members or friends on the mainland during the school year. Or they would stay ashore with their mom in a home the family owned or rented. When the school year ended, these kids might spend their summer vacations at their parents' offshore lighthouse. They would have many stories to tell when they went back to school in the autumn!

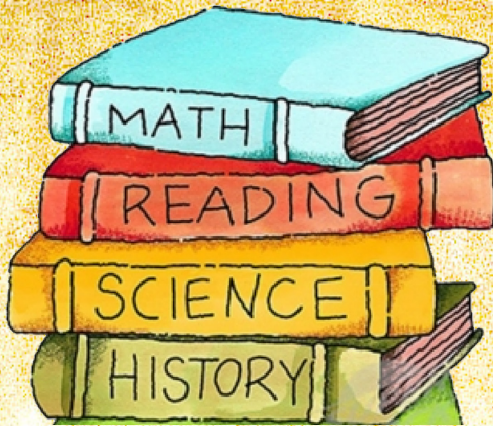
Vera Sargent with one of her students

Maybe the best plan for educating offshore lighthouse kids was to build a small schoolhouse on the island where they lived. This was the case if there were many kids. Cape Flattery Lighthouse off the coast of Washington had its own schoolhouse in the 1930s. There were about five families on the island at this time, including those of three lightkeepers' and two workers assigned to the Weather Service. More than a dozen kids needed schooling. One of the keepers had a daughter who had studied to be a teacher. When she finished college, she returned to Cape Flattery to teach the children of the island in the school house built just for them.



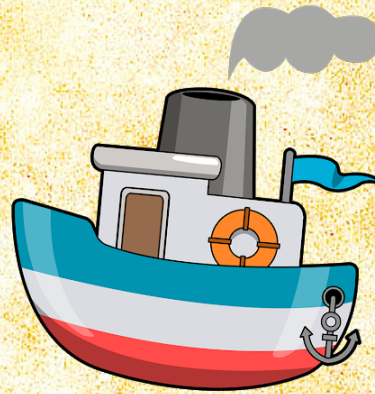
In the 1930s, Cape Flattery schoolhouse was the building behind the water tank. The two tiny buildings behind the schoolhouse were outhouses, one for girls and one for boys. Photo courtesy of Lois Melville.

Maybe you're wondering what lighthouse kids learned? Well, they studied mostly the same things kids do at school today—how to read and write and do arithmetic, geography, history, and science. There were no computers, so all their work had to be done by hand. If they wanted to look up anything, they turned to books. Many lighthouses had their own small libraries in a moveable



wooden case. These were circulated among the offshore lighthouses. People ashore often gave used books and magazines to lighthouse keepers. There was never a shortage of things for kids to read. (Learn more at uslhs.org/education/educational-materials. Scroll down to PowerPoint Slide Presentations and click on Portable Libraries.)

Of course, lighthouse kids learned special things about living near the water—how to fish and handle a boat, and maybe how to swim. They could identify different types of ships. They knew a lot about the weather and the sky, day or night. They studied the sea creatures in the tidepools and the plants and animals on the island. They collected and classified rocks and shells and knew the kinds of birds and fish



around their island. They might even have learned how to take care of the lighthouse. Most of all, they learned ways to cope with isolation and boredom, just as you did in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. In that regard, you might not be so different from a lighthouse kid!