

Student Activity

Lighthouse Words to Know

ARGAND LAMP - A hollow wick oil lamp (see wick)

AEROBEACON - A modern-day type of light presently used in many lighthouses to produce a characteristic.

ASTRAGAL - Metal bar (running vertically or diagonally) dividing the lantern room glass into sections.

BULLSEYE - A convex lens used to concentrate (refract) light

CHARACTERISTIC - Individual flashing pattern of each light.

DAYMARK - Unique color scheme and/or pattern that identifies a specific lighthouse during daylight hours.



FIXED LIGHT - A steady non-flashing beam.

FOG SIGNAL - A device (such as a whistle, bell, canon, horn, siren, etc.) which provides a specific loud noise as an aid to navigation in dense fog.

FRESNEL LENS - A type of optic consisting of a convex lens and many prisms of glass which focus and intensify the light through reflection and refraction.

FUEL - A material that is burned to produce light (fuels used for lighthouses included wood, lard, whale oil, tallow, kerosene.) Today, besides electricity and acetylene gas, solar power is also used.

GALLERY - On a lighthouse tower, a platform or walkway or **BALCONY** located outside the watch room (main

gallery) and/or lantern room (lantern gallery.)

KEEPER - The person who takes care of the light in the lighthouse. (The Head Keeper is responsible for the operation of a light station.)



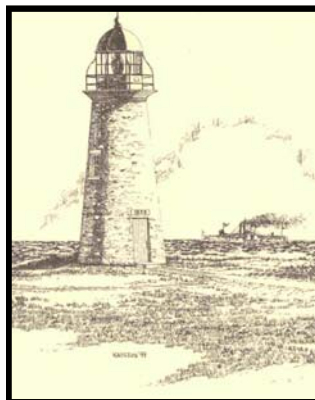
LAMP - The lighting apparatus inside a lens.

LANTERN ROOM - Glassed-in housing at the top of a lighthouse tower containing the lamp and lens.

LENS - A curved piece of glass for bringing together or spreading rays of light passing through it.

LIGHTHOUSE - A lighted beacon of major importance in navigation.

LIGHT STATION - A complex containing the lighthouse tower and all of the outbuildings, i.e. the keeper's living quarters, fuel house, boathouse, fog-signaling building, etc.



LOG - A book for maintaining records, similar to a diary.

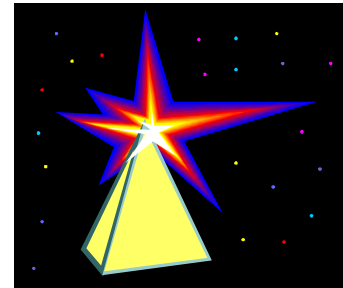
NAVIGATION - Travel over water.

ORDER - Size of the Fresnel lens which determines the brightness and distance the light will travel.

PARABOLIC - A bowl-like metal device, silver plated, **REFLECTOR** with a small oil lamp in the center.

PHAROLOGIST - One who studies or is interested in lighthouses.

PRISM - A transparent piece of glass that refracts or disperses light.



REFLECT - Bend or throw back light.

REFRACT - Bend or slant rays of light.

REVOLVING LIGHT - One that produces a flash or characteristic.

SPIDER LAMP - Shallow brass pan containing oil and several solid wicks.

STAG LIGHT - A lighthouse with no family living in it, i.e. inhabited by men only.

TOWER - Structure supporting the lantern room of the lighthouse.

WATCH ROOM- A room immediately below the lantern room or **SERVICE ROOM** where fuel and other supplies were kept where the keeper prepared the lanterns for the night and often stood watch. The clockworks (for rotating lenses) were also located there.

‘WICKIE’-A nickname given to lighthouse keepers derived from the task of trimming the wick of the lamps.