

Lighthouse Pre-Post Activities

Activity 1. Design Your Own Lighthouse

Have the students create their own lighthouses. Give them a simple guide (triangle top, square lantern, conical tower) or show an example on the board. For an added bonus, assign the students all a different lighthouse to draw from across the country. Ask them why they might all look slightly different. At the end, explain that lighthouses all look slightly different from each other because they act as a daymark. If you were to get lost or your GPS stopped working, you could find where you are because each lighthouse has different patterns or colors.

Activity 2. Hazardous Incomings

It is the duty of lighthouse keepers to keep the lighthouse lit and save people. Lighthouses help to guide incoming ships through ports. Darkness, stormy weather, mechanical issues, and emergencies can make it difficult to sail ships without a lighthouse. Have the students form groups and act out different scenarios about things that could happen if the lighthouse doesn't stay lit.



Activity 3. Class Garden

Lighthouse keepers on Tybee Island relied on food that they could grow or catch themselves. Have your class research and decide on what crops they would want to have in their gardens if they were the keepers. Make sure they keep climate, growing seasons, and important nutrients in mind! Use a large piece of butcher paper to plot out how they want to organize their garden. What else would they need to have for a healthy diet (think: chickens, goats, fish, etc)? If you want to take it one step further, you could have the class germinate seeds of the crops they chose. Have them place the seeds in wet paper towel and keep them in the sun until they sprout, then have them plant the seeds in small containers of dirt or in a school garden if you have one.

Activity 4. Navigating to the Harbor

Students form two columns (organic in shape) that are two arms length wide in an open area. The students in the column represent rocks in the sea that are hazards for ships passing through. Pick two students, who represent the ships, and blindfold them. The object is for the ships to make it through the column of rocks safely to the harbor. As the ships move between the column of rocks, the teacher will say lighthouse letting the ships take off the blindfold for a second to help them navigate. If the ship touches another student (rock or ship), the ship has crashed and sinks. If successful, the ships make it all the way to the harbor. Repeat with all students and discuss the benefits of a lighthouse.

Activity 5. Create a Quilt

Quilting was a common practice to use up scraps of fabrics as nothing was wasted. Using colored paper, have groups of students create their own quilt. For an added twist, only use scraps of paper to create the quilt and make it seem more realistic for how many people had to reuse materials during the depression.



Activity 6. Lighthouse Painting

The colors and design on a lighthouse must be unique so that sailors know which lighthouse they are looking at. Have students paint cardboard tubes to create their own daymark for a lighthouse.