## LIGHTHOUSES UNIT STUDY



## By <br> Amanda Bennett

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#### Abstract

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This book is dedicated with gratitude to those who have endured the challenging work and isolation of lighthouse life for the safety of those upon the sea.

"Brightly beams our Father's mercy From His lighthouse evermore, But to us He gives the keeping Of the lights along the shore."

From Let the Lower Lights Be Burning
By Philip P. Bliss, 1871

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Captain January, a fun video for the whole family. Starring Shirley Temple, the movie is about a young girl that is rescued and raised from infancy by a lighthouse keeper.


## FAMILY PROJECT IDEAS

1. Make an edible family project! Get the family together to design and build a lighthouse cake! Keeping your camera handy, challenge the family to design a lighthouse using cake(s) made with baking pans that you have on hand. For example, using a 9X13 sheet cake, cut into 2 long rectangles to form the light tower. Have everyone pitch in with the baking, cutting, icing, and decorating the cakes. Use things like licorice and other candies for the details-take a picture! Then, enjoy the fruits of everyone's labor.
2. For an outdoor adventure, find a standard flashlight (that works), a watch with a seconds indicator, and take everyone outside on a comfortable evening. If it is too hot or there are too many insects outside, you can try this in the basement or even the hall! Using the flashlight, have your children "flash" the light characteristics of some of their favorite lighthouses. Have one person be the light "keeper" and the others can stand at a distance, watching for the light. Ask them if they can see any different in the characteristics of the lights. If they don't know the characteristics, here are a few that they can try:

Beavertail Light (NH): Flashes white light every six seconds
Block Island (North) Light (NH): Flashes white light every 5 seconds
Annisquam Harbor Light (MA): White flash every 7.5 seconds Bodie Island Light (NC): White 2.5 seconds on, 2.5 seconds off, 2.5 seconds on, and 22.5 seconds eclipse with 2 cycles each minute.
3. This project is an ongoing project that will be fun and provide entertainment throughout the study and for years after it is finished. In this project, your family will work together to create a Lighthouse Tablecloth. The only materials that you will need are some permanent markers and an inexpensive white twin sheet. To begin the tablecloth-have someone draw a U.S. or world map in the center of the sheet, remembering that these markers will bleed through to the surface below. Make sure that any drawing is done with a plastic garbage bag or freezer paper between the cloth and any other surface to keep the ink from bleeding through. As you work through this unit, have the students locate and write the name of the lighthouse they study beside it's approximate location on the map. They can also use this cloth to write their Words of Wisdom (spelling/vocabulary words), sketch some of their favorite lighthouses, diagram a lighthouse and label its parts, and more. Have the students trace their hands on the cloth and sign their name and age below the hands-fun to look back on! Your family will have a lighthouse tablecloth to use at the end of each week of the study, as well as at the end of the unit, to show off what they've learned! It also makes a fun tablecloth for family get-togethers as well as for review days in the years to come.
4. Plan the ultimate field trip throughout this unit, working together to identify any lighthouses that are in your area or ones that your family could visit on a day or weekend trip. Put together this list and have the students contact the caretakers of these lights -- asking for travel information, directions, hours of operation, etc. If you are a member of the American Automobile Association (AAA), consider checking with their travel planning department to request more information about the lighthouses that you are interested in visiting. Then, plan a trip to one or more of these lighthouses, having the students develop a travel route, budget, etc. Take along a camera and have a wonderful time visiting the lighthouses. You will all be making wonderful memories and developing an even better understanding of their function as well as their beauty. If you are looking for a lighthouse that offers guest accommodations, visit this website: Lighthouses With Guest Accommodations


Cockspur Island Lighthouse, Georgia

## Lighthouses - Week One

This week will serve to introduce the student to lighthouses - what they are and how they work.

## Learning Objectives

* Become familiar with the idea of a lighthouse
* Understand the importance and purpose of the light
* Learn the main parts of a lighthouse and their function
* Study the basic concept of how light is obtained and projected in a lighthouse
* Become familiar with some of the terms that are used to describe the light


Key West Lighthouse 1894

## Lighthouses: Week One - Day 1

What is a lighthouse, and why do we have them? Today, we will spend some time becoming familiar with lighthouses and learning some of the basics.

## LOWER LEVEL

## Today's Quote

Carefully copy today's quote into your Lighthouse Journal:
"Then God said, 'Let there be light;' and there was light."
Genesis 1:3

## Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Lighthouse Journal. Website suggestions: Webster's 1828 Dictionary and Word Central

## light <br> fire <br> tower <br> lamp

## Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up Boston Lighthouse on Little Brewster Island. What did you find? This is the last American lighthouse that still has a keeper living at the light! Write or narrate a paragraph about the Boston Light for your Journal, and draw the lighthouse beside your paragraph. Website suggestions: Boston Lighthouse and Photo of Boston Lighthouse

## Read and Discover

Using an encyclopedia, book, or Internet site, read the following questions and find the answers. Write your answers in your journal.


1. Look up the word lighthouse and write the definition in your journal.

Website suggestions: Webster's 1828 Dictionary (enter the word "lighthouse" in the search box) and Word Central
2. Using the Internet site listed or books that contain pictures of lighthouses, look at several different lighthouses. How are they alike, and how are they different? In your Journal, draw one of the lighthouses that you found and write the location and name of the lighthouse by the drawing. Website suggestion: Photo Gallery of Lighthouses, by Region
3. Take a moment to think about how important light is to you around your house. What do you think life would be like at your house if there were no lights at night? For the same reasons, lighthouses are very important to ships and sailors!

## Lighthouses: Week One - Day 1

## UPPER LEVEL

## Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Lighthouse Journal:

# "Then God said, 'Let there be light;' and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness." <br> Genesis 1: 3-4 

## Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Lighthouse Journal. Website suggestions: Webster's 1828 Dictionary and Dictionary.com
light
lantern
navigation
bonfire

## Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up Pharos of Alexandria. Why was this structure important and where was it located? Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal and sketch the tower beside your answer. Website suggestions: The Lighthouse of Alexandria, Light of Alexandria, and Pharos of Alexandria

## Read and Discover

Using library books, encyclopedias, or Internet sites, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal along with the source of your information.

1. Look up the word lighthouse and write the definition in your journal. Website suggestions: Webster's 1828 Dictionary (enter the word "lighthouse") and Dictionary.com
2. How tall do historians believe the Pharos tower was, and how was light produced at the top of the tower? Website suggestions: The Great Lighthouse at Alexandria and Light of Alexandria
3. George Worthylake was America's first paid lightkeeper. Can you determine which lighthouse he maintained, and how did his term as lightkeeper end? Website suggestion: George Worthylake
4. What famous American statesman wrote a poem about this tragedy? Website suggestion: George Worthylake
5. What part of the American government now has the responsibility of maintaining the lighthouses? Website suggestion: US Lighthouses
