

All about Lighthouses

What is a Lighthouse?

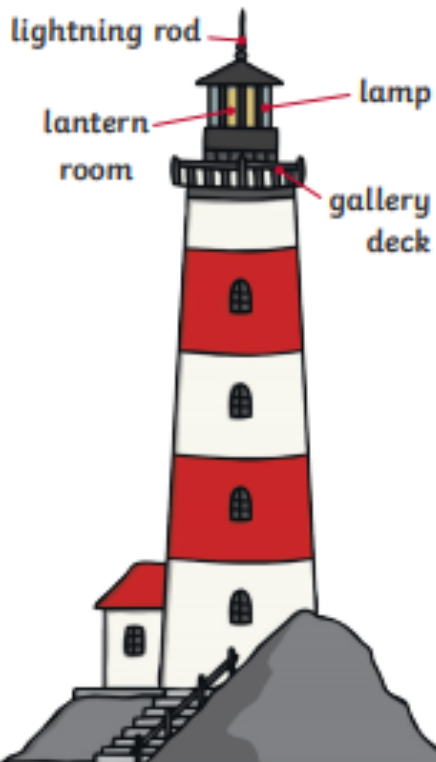
A lighthouse is a building that gives out light. It helps to keep boats and ships safe by warning them where land is.

History of Lighthouses?

Before the first lighthouse, boats were guided by fires on hilltops. The idea of a lighthouse came after these fires were raised upon platforms. The first lighthouse was built in Egypt over 2000 years ago and was called 'The lighthouse of Alexandria'.

In Britain, the first lighthouse was built in Devon because the Eddystone Rocks were a hazard for boats and ships.

The light seen from a lighthouse now comes from electricity rather than burning oil or candles.



Interesting Fact

It took 12 years to complete the lighthouse in Egypt.

A Lighthouse

There are over 100 lighthouses around the UK. Only some of these are still in use.

Lantern Room – A room with the lamp and lens in.

Lightning Rod – A copper rod which stops lightning causing too much damage.

Gallery Deck – A platform that circles the lighthouse just below the lantern room.

Questions

1. What is a lighthouse used for?

2. How were boats guided before lighthouses were built?

3. Where was the first lighthouse in Britain built?

4. Tell us two parts of a lighthouse

5. How are lighthouses powered?