



Name _____

Date _____

Life As A Lighthouse Keeper

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4 If you are sick, you stay home. If there is a big storm, you may get the day
5 off. But lighthouse keepers did not get any days off. You had to work all the time.
6 Read on to learn more about life as a lighthouse keeper.

7 Lighthouses help ships stay away from rocky areas. High winds, pounding
8 waves, and driving rain brought danger. Ships leave an area when storms are
9 coming. Lighthouse keepers can't leave. They have to keep the lights working.
10 These lights were at the top of the lighthouse. Keepers had to climb winding
11 stairs in terrible weather. In the early days of lighthouses, some of them did not
12 have a roof. It must have been very difficult to do your job during a storm in those
13 days! Often, the lighthouse keeper's family and animals lived with him. Stories
14 tell how keepers and their families had to save themselves and pets during big
15 storms.

16 A keeper had to do many tasks every day. Logbooks told about these
17 tasks. Keepers had to dust the lighthouse, clean the lens, and fill the oil lamps.
18 These kinds of jobs could be boring. Other tasks brought danger. Painting the
19 lighthouse tower was hard. Often keepers had a sad morning chore. They had to
20 sweep dead birds from the deck. The birds saw the light and crashed into the
21 lighthouse.

22 Getting to the lighthouse was not easy. This meant that keepers would
23 often be alone. Sometimes keepers took a trip to a store. A boat might arrive with
24 food or mail. When a family or keeper could talk with other people, this was
25 exciting! It helped break up the lonely days and nights.

26 You may wonder why anyone would want to be a lighthouse keeper. Many
27 people love the water. They say that being on the sea is exciting. Some liked
28 being away from other people. Other people thought that having a home that
29 came with a job was a good benefit.

30 Today, electricity means that most lighthouses do not need keepers. But
31 some people still long for the days of lighthouse keepers. If you are one of those
32 people, you can take a vacation at a lighthouse! You can polish lamps, dust the
33 lens, or even paint stairs. And...YOU have to pay to do this!



Reading in the Content Areas: Literal

Read the questions. You do NOT have to write the answer. Write the line number where the answer is found.

- 1. What did lighthouse keepers have to sweep from the deck? _____
- 2. What does electricity mean for most lighthouses today? _____
- 3. What do lighthouses do? _____
- 4. What do ships do when storms are coming? _____
- 5. What are three daily jobs of a lighthouse keeper? _____
- 6. What do famous stories about lighthouse keepers tell of? _____
- 7. Where are the lights on a lighthouse found? _____

Reading in the Content Areas: Critical Thinking

Use the facts and your ideas to answer each question.

- 1. Why do you think lighthouse keepers were often tired?

- 2. What kind of person may have taken a job as a lighthouse keeper?

- 3. Would you pay for a vacation at a lighthouse? Why or why not?
