



Name _____

Date _____

Lighting the Way: Lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay

Cruise the waters of the Chesapeake Bay on the eastern seaboard of the United States, and you will see many beautiful lighthouses. Read about these beacons of safety. Then solve the math problems. When you finish you will be a shining math student.

Welcome to the Chesapeake Bay: The Cape Henry Lighthouse

Do you want to see the oldest lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay? If you are sailing into the Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, you will see the Cape Henry Lighthouse. Right next to it is another lighthouse. This is the new Cape Henry Lighthouse. Work on the first lighthouse started in 1774. But, soon the Revolutionary War started. The work stopped. The lighthouse was finally finished in 1792. But, in 1870, people saw big cracks in the lighthouse walls. A new lighthouse was built near the old one. Today, you will be greeted by these two lighthouses as you enter the Chesapeake Bay.

1. _____

1. How many years did it take for the old Cape Henry Lighthouse to be built? (Count the years construction was stopped because of the war.)

2. _____

2. How many years did the completed old Cape Henry Lighthouse stand without showing any cracks?

3. _____

3. How many years has the completed old Cape Henry Lighthouse been in the Bay?

Try, Try Again: The Smith Point Lighthouse

Smith Point is a spot in the Chesapeake Bay that badly needs a lighthouse. Here the Potomac River comes into the Bay. But there are problems with erosion and ice. It's hard to keep a lighthouse at this point. The first Smith Point Lighthouse was built on land in 1802. But, water flooded the area. The lighthouse was rebuilt in 1807. Again water destroyed it. In 1828, a lighthouse was built in the water. This lighthouse was destroyed by ice in 1895. Finally, in 1897, a very sturdy water lighthouse was built. Today, its light is still a warning to many boaters.

4. Make a timeline showing the years when lighthouses were built at Smith Point.

5. _____

5. How many years has the current Smith Point Lighthouse been standing?

Tacking Around Thomas Point Light

Thomas Point sits in the Bay near the city of Annapolis. Because of its location, many boats pass by this spot everyday. There has been a lighthouse near this point since 1824. The first one had a small tower and cost \$5656 to build. But many people said this lighthouse wasn't well built. It was destroyed after 21 years. A second lighthouse was built. Now people said the light was too weak. After 30 years, another new lighthouse was built. But this time they built it in the water. It worked for 11 years before people had to put rocks around it. The rocks kept ice from hurting it. A lighthouse keeper stayed at Thomas Point to keep the lights shining until 1986. Today, the lights still shine to guide boats on their way. But now they work automatically.

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| 6. _____ | 6. How many years did a keeper work at the Thomas Point Lighthouse? |
| 7. _____ | 7. How long have the lights worked automatically? |
| 8. _____ | 8. In what year was the water lighthouse built? |
| 9. _____ | 9. In what year did the people put rocks around Thomas Point Light? |
| 10. _____ | 10. What number in the story is not important for solving any of the problems? |

The Leaning "Tower" at Bloody Point Bar Lighthouse

This lighthouse, in the northeast Chesapeake Bay, has had troubled times. It was built in 1882. Trouble started 2 years later when it started to lean to one side. People brought in tons of stones. But this did not stop all of the tilting. The lighthouse continues to do its job but from a slight angle! Then, in 1960, there was another problem. Fire broke out! The keeper and his assistant escaped, but the lighthouse was damaged. During the next year, workers fixed the equipment that had been hurt in the fire. They put in an automatic light. Today, Bloody Point flashes a beam every 6 seconds. In the winter, it blows its foghorn every 30 seconds.

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| 11. _____ | 11. How many years has there been a lighthouse at Bloody Point Bar? |
| 12. _____ | 12. In what year did the lighthouse start to lean? |
| 13. _____ | 13. How many times in a minute does the light at Bloody Point Bar flash? |
| 14. _____ | 14. How many times in an hour does this light flash? |
| 15. _____ | 15. How many times in an hour does the foghorn blow during the winter months? |