

Name:

Date:

ELA.3.R.2.I

Standards Based Assessment

Score:

Read the Passage and answer the questions that follow.

Lighthouses

By Marie Chandler



1 Many years ago, people decided to explore the waters by boat. During the day they could find their way back to the landing place by looking for a pile of rocks that had been left there. These were the first daymarks. But how could they find their way home at night? Since much of the shoreline looked very similar, friends had to light a bonfire on a high point of land to guide them to the right landing area. Later, they used a pole or a tripod to hang a metal basket containing a fire as a method of signaling.

Lighthouse Purposes

2 The two main purposes of a lighthouse are to serve as a navigational aid and to warn boats of dangerous areas. Lighthouses are towers with bright light at the top, located at an important or dangerous place regarding navigation (travel over water). It is like a traffic sign on the sea.

Lighthouse Characteristics

3 Lighthouses are painted differently to help mariners identify them during the day. For example, a lighthouse may be painted all white if its surroundings/background is dark. Many lighthouses are painted with stripes. These help the mariner identify the lighthouse if it's up against a white background, such as cliffs or rocks.



The lantern room is at the top of a lighthouse tower.

4 The height of a lighthouse takes into account the curvature of the earth, so the higher light above MHW (mean high water), the further away it can be seen at sea. But the light should not be so high up that local sailors will not see it. This is why you will frequently get shorter lighthouses on the top of cliffs and taller lighthouses built nearer the water surface.

Flash Patterns

5 Lighthouses can be difficult to tell apart at in the dark. To solve this dilemma, lighthouses in fairly close proximity to each other have different flash patterns to allow the mariner to identify their location. Some lighthouses in different geographical areas share the same flash patterns.

Lighthouses Now and Then

6 Originally lighthouses were lit with open fires, only later progressing through candles, lanterns and electric lights. Today, lighthouses are run by machines and remote monitoring. The automatic sensors decide if there is extra moisture in the air, and if so turn on the fog signals. Radio signals are used to communicate with the ships. But when the technology was not so advanced the lighthouses were run by lighthouse keepers.

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Florida B.E.S.T.
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1. Read the following sentence from paragraph one.

"Since much of the shoreline looked very similar, friends had to light a bonfire on a high point of land to guide them to the right landing area."

Which text structure is represented in the sentence?

- A.** chronology
- B.** comparison
- C.** cause/effect
- D.** compare/contrast

2. How does photograph on page 2 BEST contribute to meaning of the text?

- A.** It helps the reader visualize lighthouses in various environments.
- B.** It provides an example of a lighthouse that is up against a white backdrop.
- C.** It shows an example of a lighthouse that is against a dark surrounding.
- D.** It demonstrates how lighthouses can be different.

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**Florida B.E.S.T.
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3. Select the detail from paragraph 3 that describes the purpose of stripes on a lighthouse.
- A. "Many lighthouses are painted with stripes."
 - B. "Lighthouses are painted differently to help mariners identify them during the day."
 - C. "These help the mariner identify the lighthouse if it's up against a white background, such as cliffs or rocks."
 - D. " For example, a lighthouse may be painted all white if its surroundings/background is dark.
4. Under which heading would the reader learn about the chronology of lighthouses?
- A. Lighthouse Purposes
 - B. Lighthouse Characteristics
 - C. Flash Patterns
 - D. Lighthouses Then & Now
5. What problem did lighthouses in close proximity to each other cause?
- A. Lighthouses were difficult to tell apart during the day.
 - B. Some lighthouses in different geographical areas share the same flash patterns.
 - C. Flash patterns to allow the mariner to identify their location
 - D. Lighthouses were difficult to tell apart at night.

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