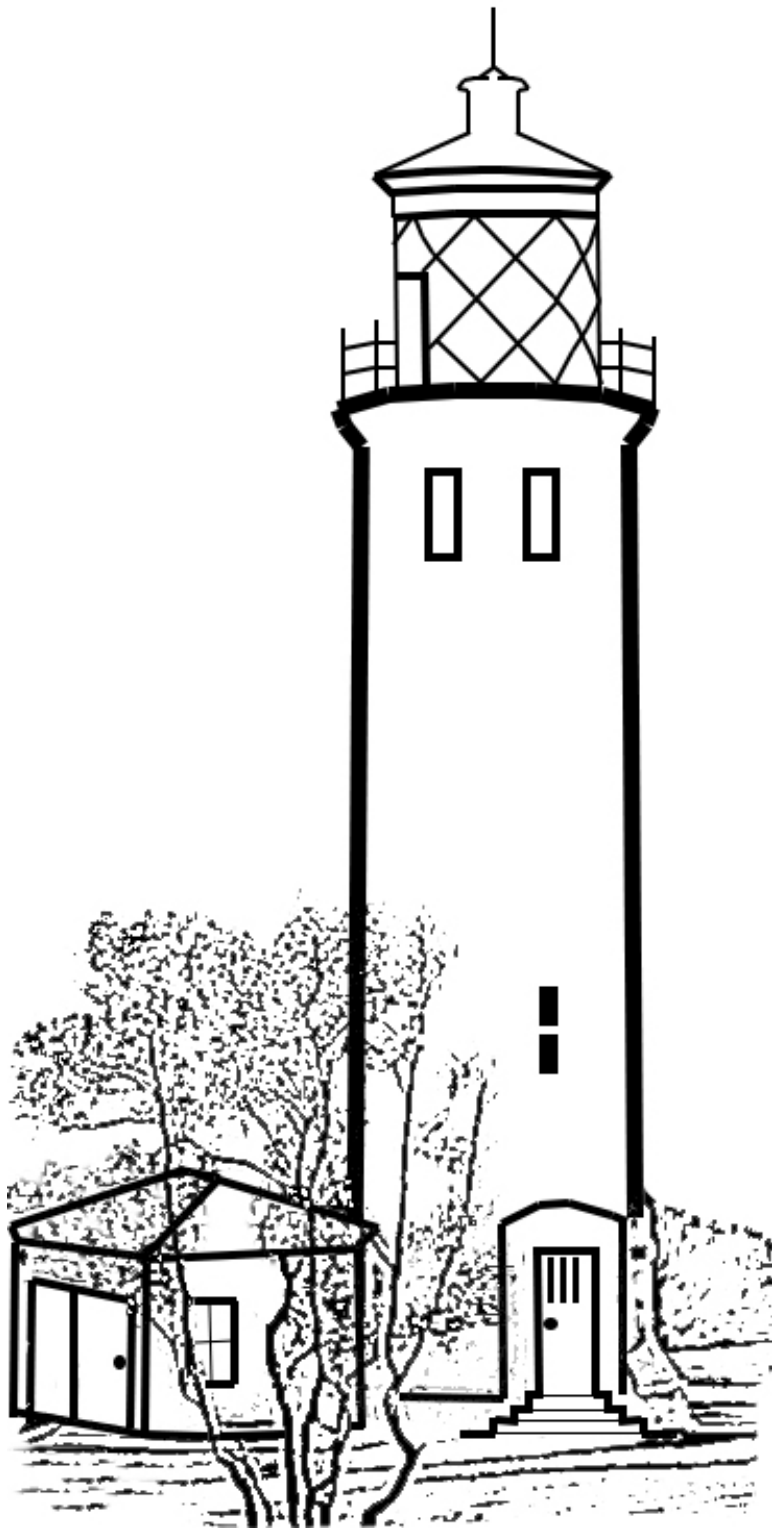


The U.S. Lighthouse Society is proud to present:

Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids



Featuring:
*Lighthouse Keepers
Clean Windows*

Feeling creative?
Email your colored in version of the
Point Vicente Lighthouse, featured on the
cover,
or
any of the other coloring pages. . .
along with your mailing address to
info@uslhs.org, and we'll send you an
"I love lighthouses" bumper sticker!

Issue #16

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Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids



Lighthouse Cocoa

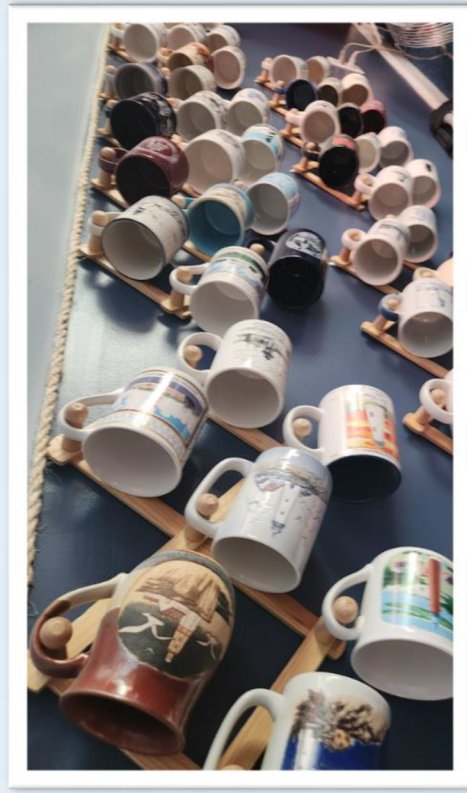


Warm a cup full of milk in your kitchen microwave. This takes about 2 minutes. Have someone help you get it out—it's hot!! Add a package of cocoa mix. Stir and top with mini marshmallows. Yum!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lighthouse Cups

Looking for something fun to do on a cold winter day? Design some lighthouse cups. You'll find a sheet with two blank cups included in this issue. Draw your favorite lighthouses on them. Scan your artwork and send them to rich@uslhs.org, and he'll post them online and send you a surprise.

DID YOU KNOW?? Some people collect lighthouse cups. Elinor, who creates these fun pages for you, has more than 170 cups with lighthouses on them. That's a lot of cups of cocoa! Below is a photo of some of her collection. All the cups hang on the walls of her office. She has been collecting lighthouse cups since 1973. How many years is that? Do the math—2024 minus 1973 equals _____.



Oh fun...a lighthouse crossword puzzle! Use the numbered **ACROSS** and **DOWN** clues. Also study the lighthouses and sloppy handwriting around the puzzle. It has clues too.

Lighthouse Words

Don't touch the lens!

*Gimme a k!
Gimme two ee!
Gimme a P!
Gimme an et!*

I'll take the stairs!

*Let's climb!
Don't trip!*

Across

3. the keeper's feline pet *Meow!*
4. it happens to vessels that can't see the light
7. the pattern on the outside of a lighthouse
8. it makes the light brighter

Down

1. where the lens is located *Up! Up! Up top!*
2. it winds to the top of the lighthouse
5. the person who cares for a lighthouse
6. another word for light *b-e-a-m*

*A ship crashed!
Crunch!
Boom!
Smash!*

lantern room!

*Such pretty daymarks!
Stripes! Yellow?
Red!*

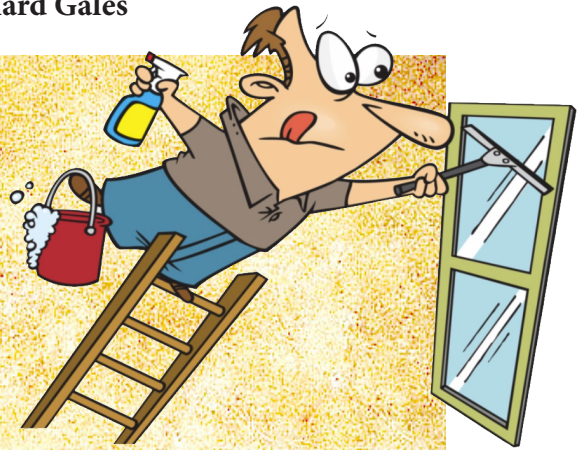
Lighthouse Keepers Clean Windows!

A read-aloud story for kids to read with adults.

By Elinor DeWire

Graphic Design By Richard Gales

Who likes to wash windows? It's hard work. Your arms get tired quickly. But I do love a clean, sparkling window. I get discouraged by the hard work and the streaks. And I'm short and can't reach the top of tall windows. Sometimes, I stand on a chair or a small ladder. I must be careful though. It's dangerous!



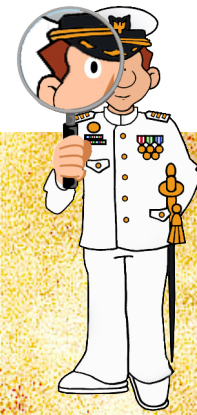
How did lighthouse keepers clean the tall windows on a lighthouse lantern 100 years ago? Those windows were very high off the ground. They got dirty easily. Lightkeepers had to be brave. Usually, they used ladders to reach the windows, but mostly they balanced on the lantern railings. I think they may have known the old saying about not being afraid when up high—"Don't look down!"

You might be surprised to learn that lightkeepers were expert window washers. It was part of their job. Their instruction manual from the government told them how to clean and repair everything at the lighthouse. Lightkeepers were often called "Jacks of All Trades." This means they could do just about anything.

The windows of the lighthouse lantern had to be cleaned inside and outside every day. The work was often difficult, especially in bad weather. Before electricity was invented, lighthouses had oil lamps. These gave off dirty black fumes that soiled the glass inside the lantern. The outside of the glass was even worse to clean.

There were bugs stuck to the glass and dust from the wings of moths, because these insects are drawn to light at night. Salt from the sea air collected on the glass. Sand carried by the wind could stick to the windows. Birds landed on top of the lighthouse and sometimes pooped on the lantern windows—yuck!! Even ice and snow in winter had to be removed.

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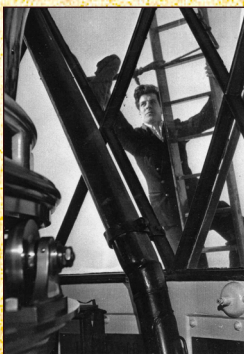


The government lighthouse inspector came a few times a year to make sure the lighthouse and all its buildings were being kept properly. He wore white gloves to check everything for dirt and dust. The lighthouse had to be really clean! The windows in the lantern room, in the keeper's house, the storehouse, the oil house, and the boathouse had to be spotless, with no dirt or streaks. There could be no ice or snow on the windows either!

The cleaner of choice in the old lightkeeping days was vinegar (or pure alcohol) diluted with a little water. Then, a few drops of liquid soap was added. Sometimes, keepers called this cleaner "spirits of wine," though it wasn't really wine. "Spirits of wine" left no streaks when applied with a soft linen cloth. Most important, it didn't scratch the glass. That drop of liquid soap boosted the cleaning power and made the cloth slide smoothly over the glass. This cleaning formula was so good it was even used on the lens and its delicate prisms.

Cleaning those high windows was really dangerous work. Some keepers used ladders. Some stood on chairs or wooden boxes. Some stood on the lantern railing. Yikes! A few keepers tethered themselves to the lantern with a rope around the waist. It made the work a little safer.

In the late 1800s, the government began putting handholds on the outside window frames for keepers to grasp as they cleaned windows. What a great idea! This made lighthouse window cleaning much safer.



You can see one of these handholds in the third photo ahead, the one of the keeper in a white hat.

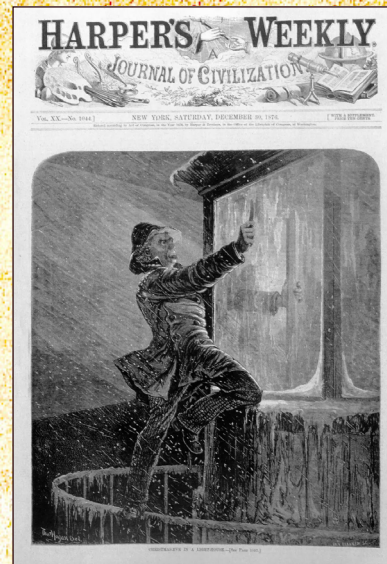
But first, let's look a few images of keepers washing windows—

This photo of Beachy Head Lighthouse in England is from above about 1938. You can see the side of the lens on the left and one of the chariot wheels that

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made the lens revolve. The keeper used a ladder to reach the top of the windows. Can you imagine standing on a ladder on the lantern gallery of a lighthouse more than a hundred feet above the ground...with wind blowing? Very scary! (Photo from Sheila Ryan's blog)

This old drawing to the right shows some serious winter window cleaning. It appeared on the cover of the December 1876 Harper's Weekly magazine. The keeper of a lighthouse is shown cleaning windows in a winter storm. He is standing on the ice-covered railing. Do you think he is safe? This drawing is one of the reasons the British, French, and American governments began building handholds into the lantern windows. Cleaning windows on a day like this one was truly risky.



Irving Conlin, a lightkeeper and avid photographer, snapped this photo (below-left) of a keeper cleaning the lantern windows at Point Vicente Lighthouse about 1940. You can see one of the built-in handholds I mentioned earlier. It is just below his left hand. He is grasping the window frame with his other hand. (Is he left-handed or right-handed?) Notice the pretty bow-shaped windows on the lantern. These allowed rain and snow to slide off easier than flat



windows, and their diagonal astragals (metal frames) didn't interfere with the light as much as the horizontal type. (Nautical Research Center Collection)

Cleaning windows today is a lot easier. We use a special window cleaner, usually blue in color, in a

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spray bottle. We buy it at a store, pre-mixed and ready to use. We scrub our windows with paper towels or newspaper.

Lightkeepers didn't have pre-made window cleaners or spray bottles, and paper towels hadn't been invented until 1879. Keepers, as you've already learned, mixed their own window cleaner and used a very soft cloth. And I'm sure they were glad when handholds were added to window frames!

Try your hand at some window cleaning at your home. Is it easy or hard? I suppose the answer depends on how big your windows are and how many need to be cleaned!



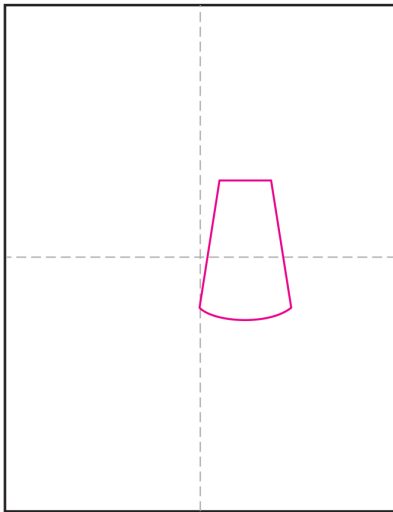
Design Your Own Lighthouse Cups!

Draw your favorite lighthouses on these cups. Send your designs to info@uslhs.org. we'll post them online under "Kids Art" and send you a surprise! Hooray!

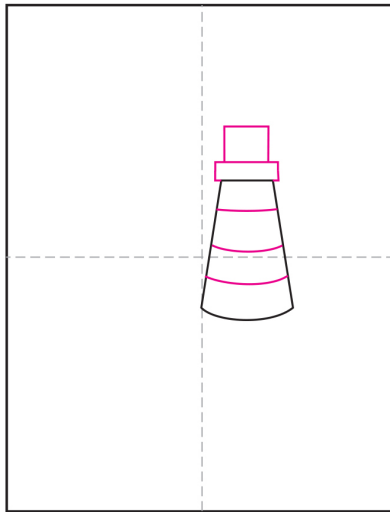


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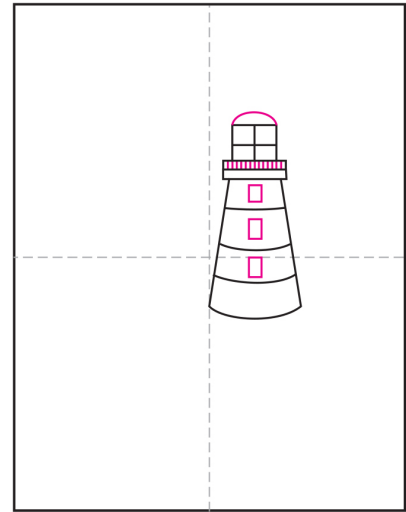
How to Draw a Lighthouse



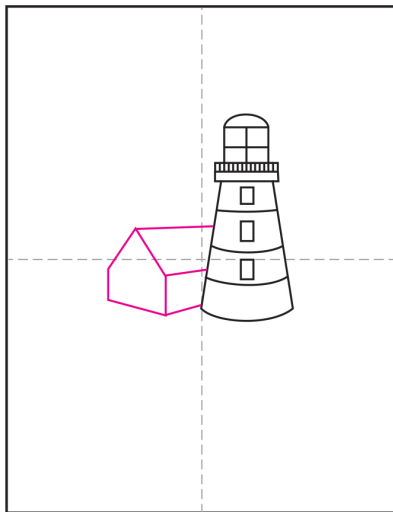
1. Start with a cone shape.



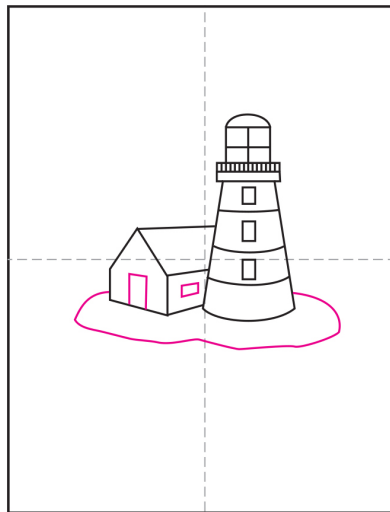
2. Add top and curved lines.



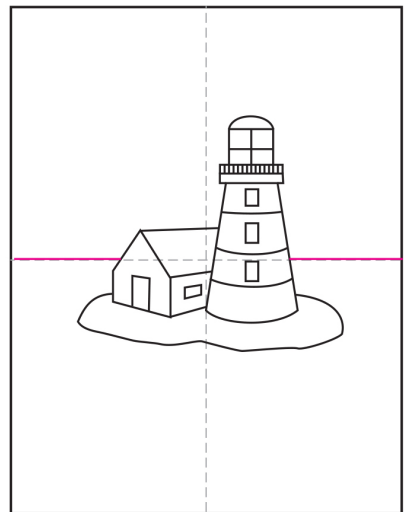
3. Add windows and details.



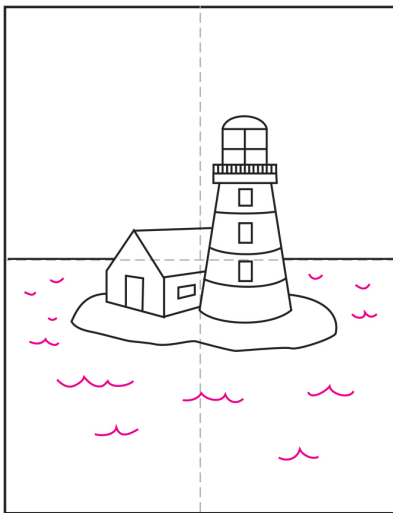
4. Draw house behind lighthouse.



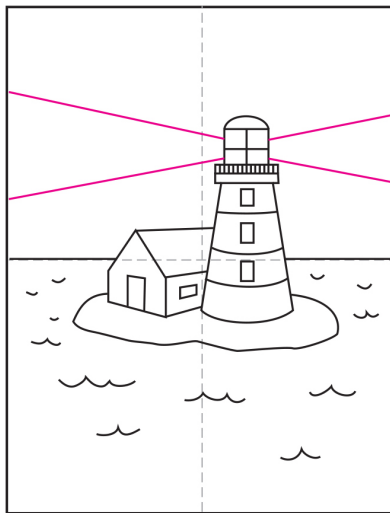
5. Add windows and island.



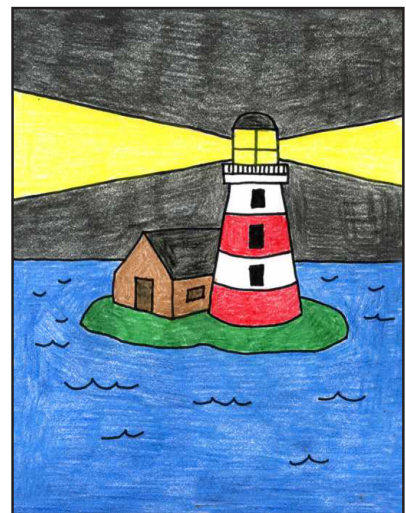
6. Add horizon line.



7. Draw waves, larger ones in front.



8. Add light ray lines.



9. Trace with a marker and color.

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