

What is a Lighthouse?

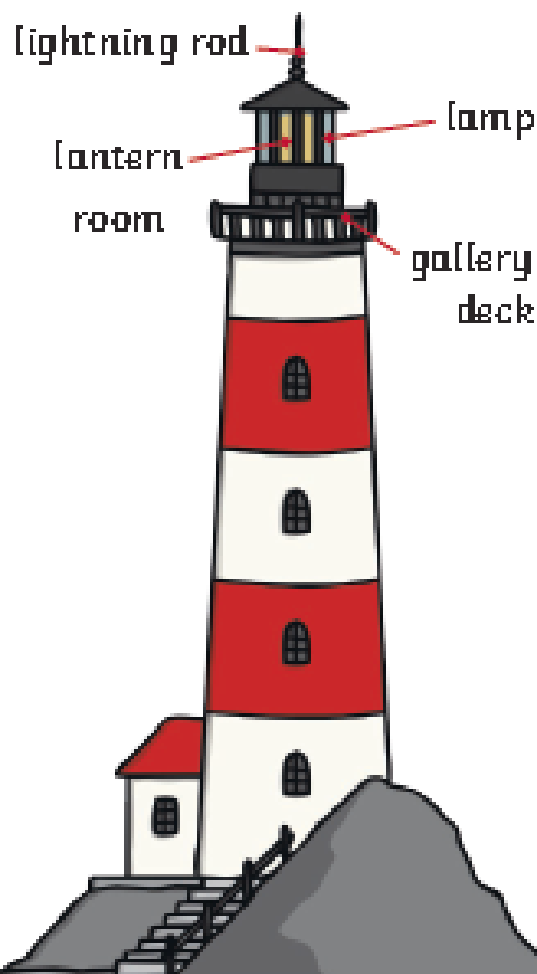
A lighthouse is a building that gives out light. It helps to keep boats and ships safe by warning them where land is.

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.