# Learning about Lighthouses

#### What is a lighthouse?

A building which gives out light.

• They help keep ships and boats safe by showing where the land is.

#### Who built the first lighthouse?

- The first known lighthouse was built in Ancient Egypt over 2000 years ago and it was called "The lighthouse of Alexandria".
- It was in an Island called Pharos- some languages still use that word instead of "lighthouse".
- The first lighthouse in Britain was built in Devon after the Roman invasion.



#### How does a lighthouse work?

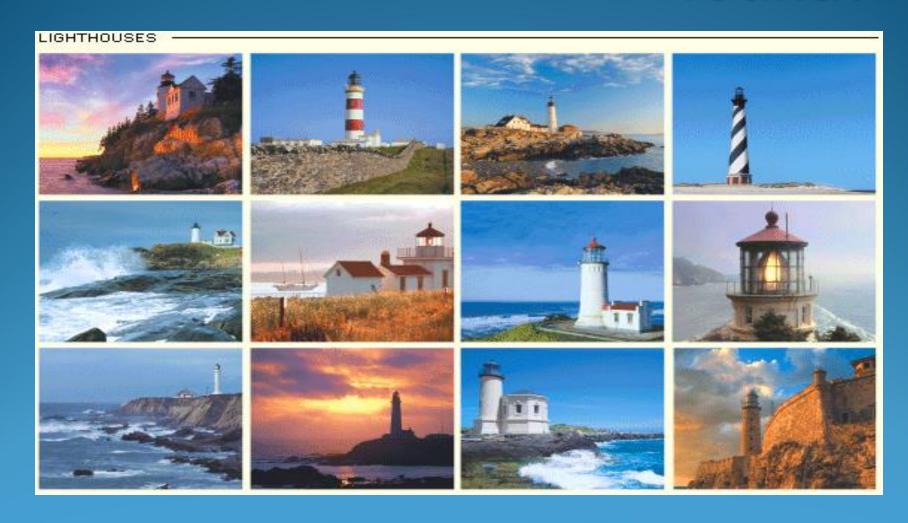
- Light from the lighthouse used to come from lamps burning oil or candles.
- Today lighthouses use electricity just like in our homes!
- The light in lighthouses usually follow a pattern.



### Do all lighthouses have the same light patterns?

 No, every lighthouse has a different light pattern to alert boats and ships that there is land or dangerous areas of water nearby!

## Where are lighthouses found?

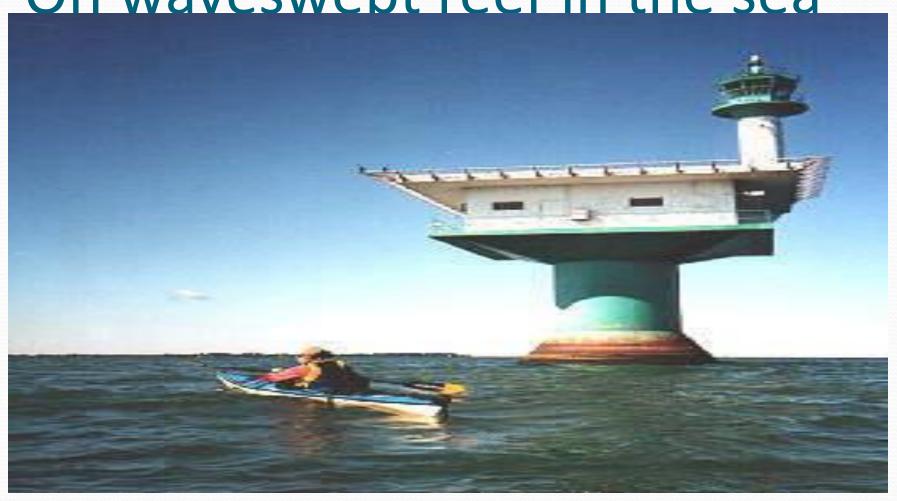


On rocky cliffs

#### On sandy shoals



On waveswept reef in the sea



#### Entrances to harbours and bays



#### to warn ships about....

• Reefs beneath the sea.



#### And rocky coasts on land



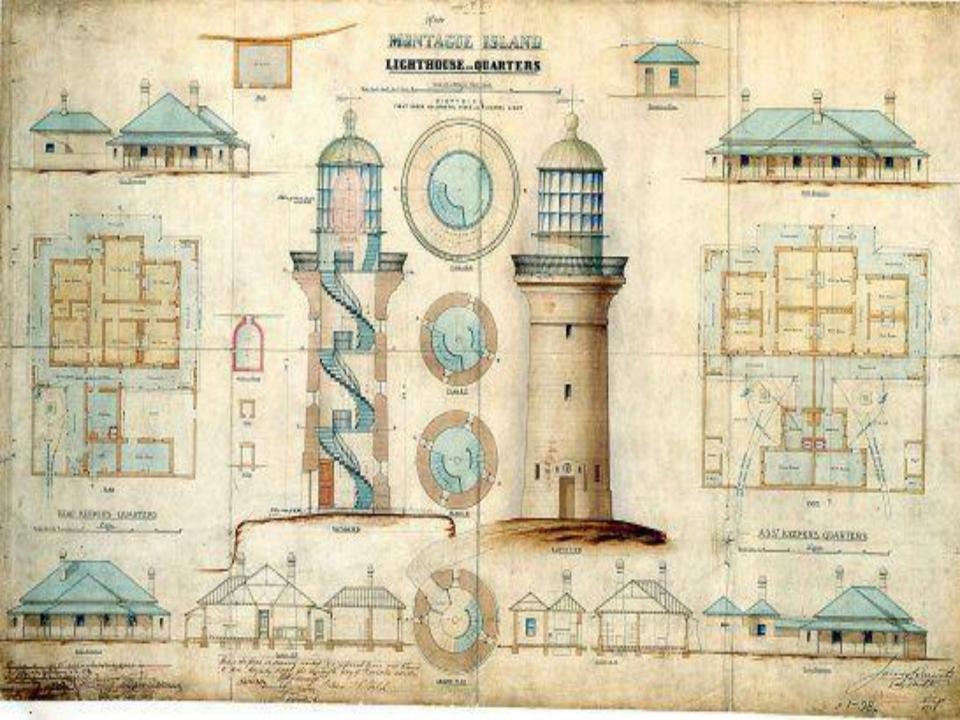
## Also help ships to get in and out of harbours.



#### What is inside the lighthouse?

- The Lantern Room is the glassed-in housing at the top of a lighthouse tower containing the lamp and lens. The windows have to be special, strong storm panes, supported by metal bars.
- Beneath the lantern room is usually a Watch Room where fuel and other supplies were kept and where the keeper prepared the lanterns for the night and often stood watch.
- On a lighthouse tower, an open platform called the gallery is often located outside the watchroom. This was mainly used for cleaning the outside of the windows of the Lantern Room.





## Why does Mr Grinling's Lighthouse have red and white stripes?

- Not all lighthouses are stripy but they are all painted to stand out against the cliffs and sea that surround them.
- Some are painted black and white; some are painted with spiralling stripes.
- Lights near to each other that are similar in shape are often painted in a unique pattern so they can easily be recognized during the daylight.

#### What do Lighthouse Keepers do?

• Lighthouse keepers were needed to trim the wicks (when oil lamps were still used), replenish fuel, wind clockworks and perform maintenance tasks such as cleaning lenses and windows.



### The End