

Lighthouse History Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Lighthouse History trivia explores the coastal landmarks that guided ships through dangerous waters, from ancient signal towers to the great lighthouse-building eras of the 18th and 19th centuries. Expect factual questions that touch on maritime safety, famous structures, and the people and technologies behind these enduring navigational icons.

HARD LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which builder completed the first permanent Eddystone Lighthouse in 1698?

Answer: Henry Winstanley

2. Before Smeaton's famous redesign, whose wooden Eddystone Lighthouse was completed in 1709?

Answer: John Rudyerd

3. In what year was John Smeaton's Eddystone Lighthouse first lit?

Answer: 1759

4. Bell Rock Lighthouse entered service in which year?

Answer: 1811

5. Skerryvore Lighthouse was first lit in what year?

Answer: 1844

6. Hook Lighthouse traces its beginnings back to a Norman tower begun in approximately which century?

Answer: 13th century

7. On which Estonian island is Kõpu Lighthouse located?

Answer: Hiiumaa

8. Which colonial architect designed the tower of Cape Byron Light?

Answer: Charles Harding

9. Cape Byron Light uses what specific lens class?

Answer: A first-order Fresnel lens

10. Split Rock Lighthouse first shone in which year?

Answer: 1910

11. What is the first-light year for Yaquina Head Light?

Answer: 1873

12. The U.S. National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act was enacted in what year?

Answer: 2000

13. In U.S. lighthouse administration, what year marks the Coast Guard takeover of the

United States Lighthouse Service?

Answer: 1939

14. The Pharos of Alexandria is traditionally counted among what famous ancient group?

Answer: The Seven Wonders of the ancient world

FUNNY LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY TRIVIA

1. If you climbed the St. Augustine Lighthouse one step at a time and refused to teleport, how many steps would you take to reach the top?

Answer: 219 steps

2. Which lighthouse pulled off the ultimate real-estate move by being relocated inland in 1999 to escape erosion?

Answer: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

3. When Cape Hatteras Lighthouse changed its address, about how far inland was it moved?

Answer: About 2,900 feet

4. Which lighthouse stands on such a tiny rock off the Isles of Scilly that it sounds like a dare?

Answer: Bishop Rock Lighthouse

5. Bishop Rock Lighthouse is often described as one of the world's most what?

Answer: Most isolated lighthouses

6. The first Eddystone lighthouse had a rough weather review. In what year was it destroyed in the Great Storm?

Answer: 1703

7. True or false: a cat named Trim reportedly lived with keeper Matthew Flinders at Eddystone's temporary lightship-era stationing context.?

Answer: False

8. Which lighthouse gets to brag that it was the first lighthouse established in the American colonies in 1716?

Answer: Boston Light

9. What is the wonderfully dramatic nickname of Tillamook Rock Light in Oregon?

Answer: Terrible Tilly

10. Popular writing attached the phrase 'as isolated as a lighthouse keeper' to which Rhode Island light?

Answer: Race Rock Light

11. Which lighthouse's waving white tower is tied to the light-pattern lore phrase 'I love thee well'?

Answer: Minots Ledge Light

12. For Minots Ledge Light, what is the unofficial rhyme for its 1-4-3 flash pattern?

Answer: I love you

13. Which Maine lighthouse looks like it dressed itself in bold red-and-white stripes and committed to the bit?

Answer: West Quoddy Head Light

FUN LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which modernist author sent readers beaming toward the sea in the novel "To the Lighthouse"?

Answer: Virginia Woolf

2. Who both wrote and illustrated the picture book "Hello Lighthouse"?

Answer: Sophie Blackall

3. At which Rhode Island light did Ida Lewis become famous for lifesaving?

Answer: Lime Rock Light

4. Who kept watch at Robbins Reef Lighthouse in New York Harbor?

Answer: Kate Walker

5. The Eddystone Rocks lurk off which city in southwest England?

Answer: Plymouth

6. Who designed the celebrated 1759 Eddystone Lighthouse?

Answer: John Smeaton

7. What is the name of the surviving upper portion of Smeaton's Eddystone lighthouse?

Answer: Smeaton's Tower

8. Which lighthouse stands in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland?

Answer: Bell Rock Lighthouse

9. Who was the engineer behind Bell Rock Lighthouse?

Answer: Robert Stevenson

10. Skerryvore Lighthouse had which Stevenson at the engineering helm?

Answer: Alan Stevenson

11. Off the west coast of which country would you find Skerryvore Lighthouse?

Answer: Scotland

12. La Jument Lighthouse stands off the coast of which French region?

Answer: Brittany

13. If you are visiting Cabo Rojo in Puerto Rico, which lighthouse are you seeing?

Answer: Faro Los Morrillos

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What special type of lens is commonly used in lighthouse lighting systems?

Answer: Fresnel lens

2. Whose last name became the name of the famous lighthouse lens design?

Answer: Jean Fresnel

3. Which inventor is remembered for an oil lamp design adopted in many lighthouses?

Answer: Aimé Argand

4. In lighthouse terms, what do you call the height of the light above the chart datum water level?

Answer: focal plane

5. What are the paired beacons called that help vessels stay on a safe course line?

Answer: range lights

6. Which kind of lighthouse aid uses different colored beams to show safe water and hazards?

Answer: sector lights

7. When weather turned soupy and a light alone was hard to see, what became especially important?

Answer: fog signals

8. Which navigation aid became important in the early 20th century for helping mariners find their way?

Answer: radio beacons

9. What later technology reduced the navigational centrality of many traditional lighthouses in the late 20th century?

Answer: GPS

10. Why were many lighthouse towers painted with bold patterns for daytime viewing?

Answer: They served as daymarks so the towers could be recognized in daylight.

11. A lighthouse has its own flash signature. What is that unique pattern of flashes called?

Answer: characteristic

12. Who once had the routine job of trimming wicks and cleaning lamp chimneys at lighthouses?

Answer: keepers

EASY LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY TRIVIA

1. In which ancient country was the Pharos of Alexandria built?

Answer: Ancient Egypt

2. The famous Pharos of Alexandria stood on what island near Alexandria?

Answer: Pharos

3. Which lighthouse stands in A Coruña, Spain?

Answer: The Tower of Hercules

4. The Tower of Hercules dates back to what era?

Answer: The Roman era

5. If you visit County Wexford in Ireland, which lighthouse are you visiting?

Answer: Hook Lighthouse

6. Portland Head Light is located in which Maine town?

Answer: Cape Elizabeth

7. Which lighthouse is found on North Carolina's Outer Banks?

Answer: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

8. What lighthouse overlooks Lake Superior in Minnesota?

Answer: Split Rock Lighthouse

9. In Cape Town, South Africa, which lighthouse can you find?

Answer: Green Point Lighthouse

10. Which lighthouse is located in British Columbia, Canada?

Answer: Fisgard Lighthouse

11. At Byron Bay in New South Wales, Australia, which lighthouse stands?

Answer: Cape Byron Light

12. Which lighthouse is in Oregon?

Answer: Yaquina Head Light

13. On New Zealand's South Island, what lighthouse would you see?

Answer: Nugget Point Lighthouse

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/lighthouse-history>