

Who Helps at the Shore?

PRE-K · SCIENCE, HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS · ROCKPORT

How do lighthouses, weather watchers and helpers keep people safe at the shore?

One 25-minute circle time plus a 5-minute weather chart routine on five mornings (50 minutes total)

Rockport is a town by the sea. Near Rockport is an island with two tall lighthouses. This week we will learn how lighthouses help boats, watch the weather every day and practice how to ask a helper for help.

Summary by Cape Ann Current

R1. The Twin Lights of Thacher Island

Rockport is a town by the sea. Out in the water, near Rockport, there is a small island. It is called Thacher Island.

On Thacher Island there are two tall lighthouses. They stand side by side. They look the same. People call them the Twin Lights. Twins are two that match.

(Star) Can you hold up two fingers that match, like twins?

The two towers are made of stone called granite. They were built a long, long time ago. They are so tall that you would climb more than 150 steps to get to the top.

(Star) Let's pretend to climb the stairs. Step, step, step. Are you tired yet?

Near the island, there are big rocks hiding under the water. Boats must stay away from them. The lighthouse light shines out over the water so boats can see where the rocks are and stay safe.

(Star) Why do boats need a light at night?

Long ago, people called lighthouse keepers lived on the island. They kept the lights shining every night. Today, the town of Rockport takes care of part of the island, and helpers called keepers still come to look after it and welcome visitors.

When the weather is foggy, it is hard to see. When the weather is stormy, the waves are big. On those days, lights and loud horns help boats, and many boats stay safe in the harbor.

(Star) What weather makes it hard to see?

Source: Written by Cape Ann Current for teacher read-aloud. Facts from the Thacher Island Association, "Thacher Island" page. <https://thacherisland.org/thacher-island/>. Rights: Text written by Cape Ann Current; facts from the Thacher Island Association, cited

A1. Lighthouse Says

You are a little boat. Sail when the light is on. Stop when the light goes off. Move slowly in the fog.

1. Sail when the light is on.
2. Stop and look when the light is off.
3. Move slowly and listen for the horn when it is foggy.

A2. Can you help me, please?

Practice asking a helper for help. Take turns being the helper.

1. Say: Can you help me, please?
2. Say: Can you say that again, please?
3. Be the helper. Say: Yes, I can help you.

A3. Weather Watcher

Look at the sky. Check the streamer, the rain cup and the thermometer. Choose the weather word for today.

1. Is the sun out?
2. Is the streamer moving?
3. Is there water in the rain cup?
4. Does it feel warm or cold?
5. What weather word goes on our chart today?
6. What would a boat, a bird or a person do in this weather?

Talk about it

- Why do you think the lighthouses are so tall?
- What helpers have you seen at the beach or by the water?
- What do you wear when it is rainy? When it is sunny?
- What do birds do when it is very windy?
- Who could you ask for help if you got lost at the beach?

Show what you learned

Be the Weather Watcher for a day: check the weather, choose the word for the chart and tell one thing a boat, a bird or a person might do in that weather.