

LIGHTHOUSE STEAM CHALLENGE

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Read a story about a lighthouse, or share fun facts about lighthouses (the National Park Service is a great resource). Then, participants compete to see who can build the tallest lighthouse using paper straws, craft sticks, or index cards. Those who finish early can work on a lighthouse coloring sheet or experiment with Morse Code to send messages to each other (see Printables). This program is easily adapted to Zoom. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Check out your local lighthouse society for free virtual tours. You might even be able to take a field trip to hold a storytime (virtual or in-person) from the lighthouse!

ADAPTATION:

For hearing- or vision-impaired patrons, create posters that include pictures of lighthouses with easy-to-read facts. While reading a story, consider projecting the ebook version on a screen or wall as you go along.

ADAPTATION:

Based on Sophie Blackall's book *Hello Lighthouse*, you could also have participants build a device to move things from the floor to table, and vice versa, without dropping anything.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Laptop/projector to share NPS info
- Paper straws, craft sticks, and/or index cards
- Masking tape
- Battery tealights
- Paper and pencils for participants to draw their plans
- Flashlights (optional)
- Morse code handouts (optional)

The lighthouse must support a battery tea light. Be sure to leave time for participants to share their structures with each other.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Lighthouse history and activities from National Park Service:
<https://bit.ly/3fpBXZa>

Books

Non-fiction

Lighthouses for Kids: History, Science, and Lore with 21 Activities (2008)
 by Katherine L. House (children's)

Lighthouse: An Illuminating History of the World's Coastal Sentinels (2018)
 by R. G. Grant (adult)

Fiction

Hello, Lighthouse (2018) by Sophie Blackall (children's)

The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge (2002) by Hildegard H. Swift and Lynd Ward (children's)

The Lighthouse Family: The Storm (2003) by Cynthia Rylant and Preston McDaniels (children's)

The Lighthouse Cat (2004) by Sue Stainton and Anne Mortimer (children's)

The Lighthouse Mystery (The Boxcar Children Mysteries) (Second Edition) (1990) by Gertrude Chandler Warner and David Cunningham (children's)

Printables

Morse Code

Lighthouse Coloring Sheet

DISCUSSION IDEA:

Hello, Lighthouse describes performing the same task for hours on end. Do the children think they could do that same task? For how long? A few minutes? 1 hour? 12 hours?

Morse Code

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B	— • • • •	N	— •	Z	— • • • •	7	— • • • • •
C	— • • — •	O	— — — —	Ä	• — • • —	8	— • • • • •
D	— • •	P	• — • • —	Ö	— • • — •	9	— • • — • •
E	•	Q	— • • — • —	Ü	• • — • —	.	• — • • — •
F	• • — • •	R	• • — •	Ch	— • • — — —	,	— • • • — • —
G	— • — • •	S	• • •	0	— • — • — • —	?	• • — • — • •
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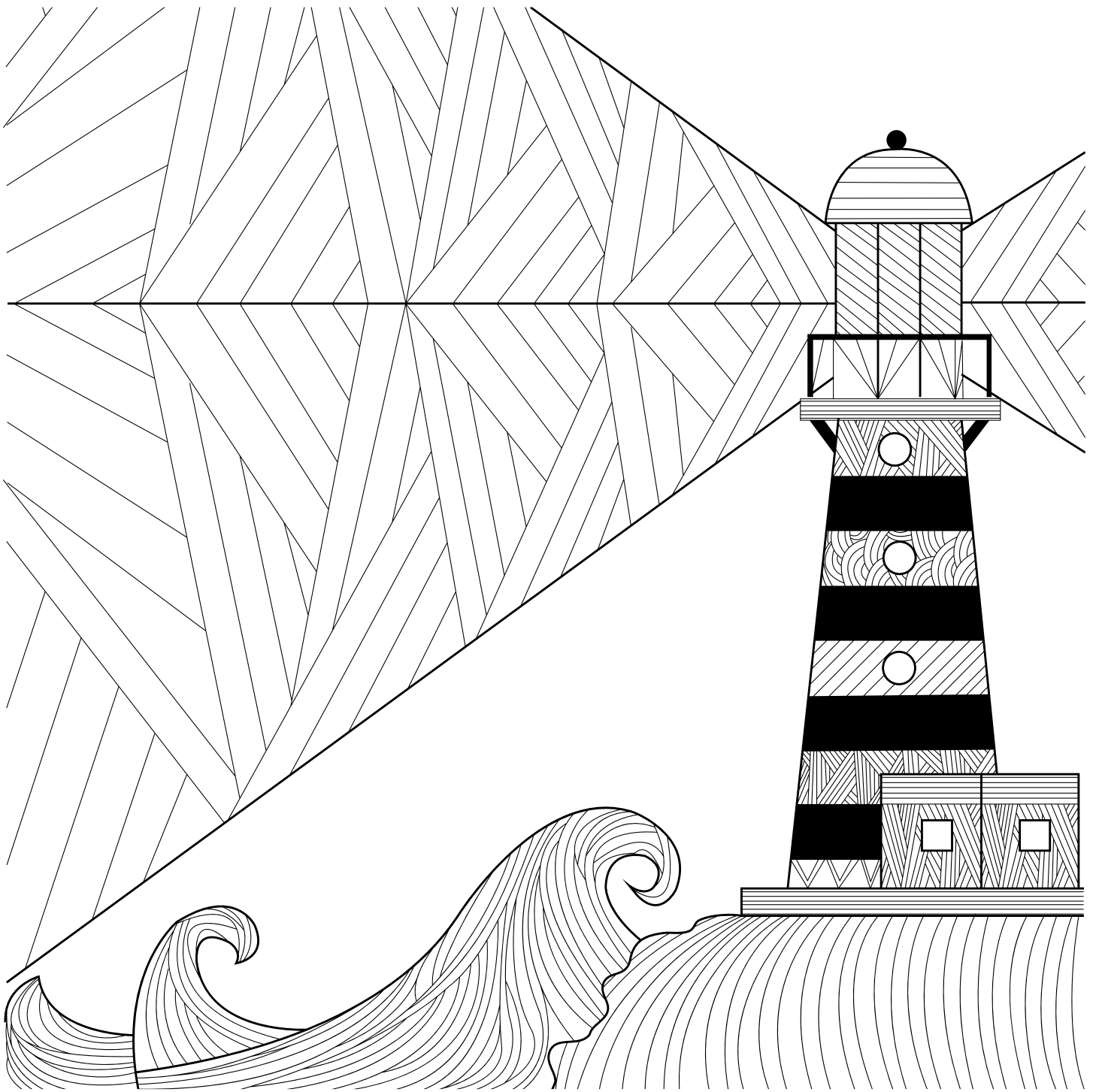


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