

## Florida's Historic Lighthouses

A lighthouse is a tower with a bright light at the top, located at a landmark or dangerous place for navigation (travel over water). The lighthouse is like a traffic sign on the sea. It can warn the sailor of dangerous reefs beneath the sea or perilous coasts on land. It can guide ships into a safe harbor or back out to sea. Every lighthouse tells the mariner, "Here I am. Now you can compute where you are."

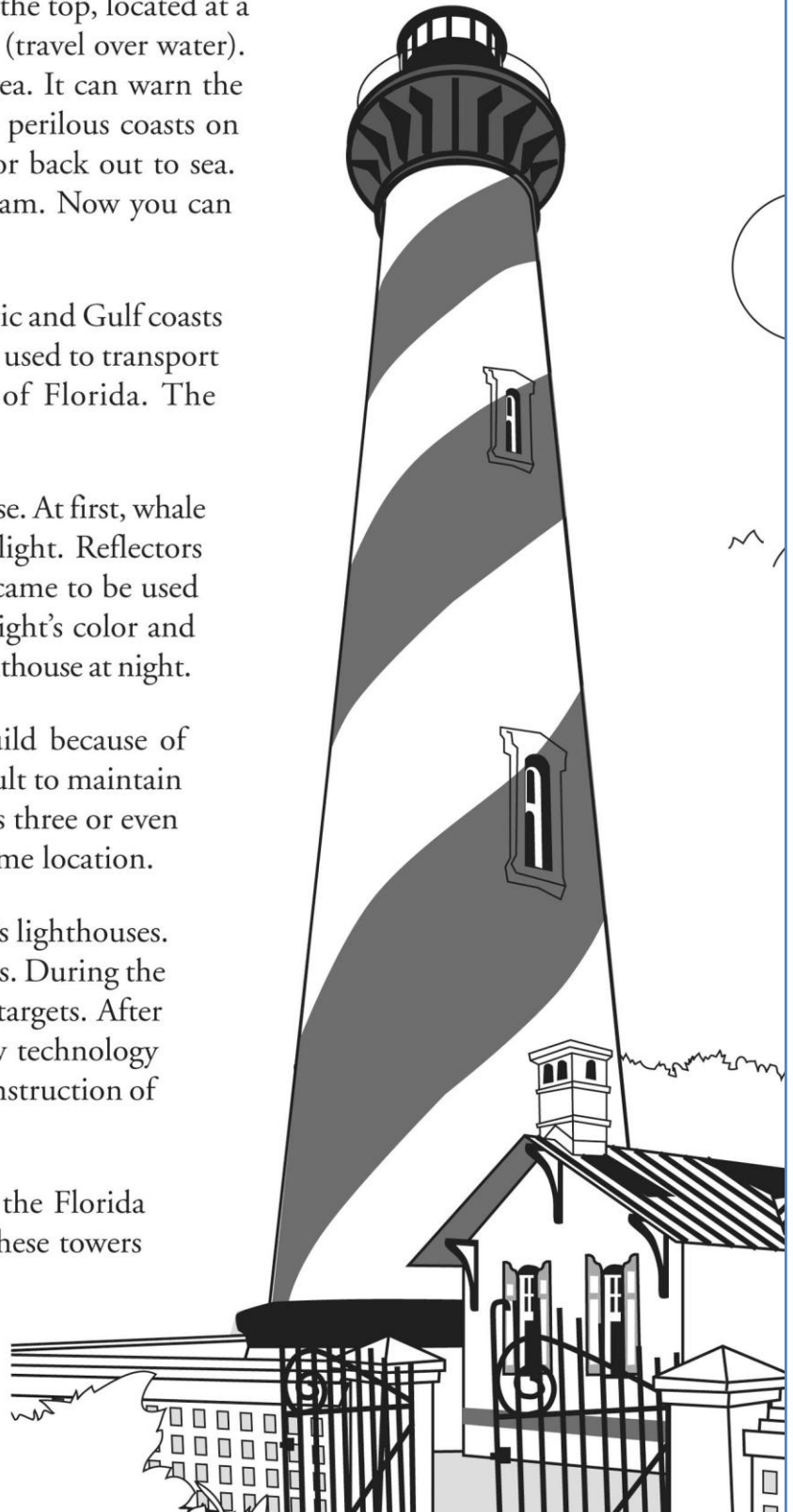
Many lighthouses were built along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida. In the early days, ships were often used to transport people and goods around the peninsula of Florida. The lighthouses helped guide those early sailors.

Typically, the light shone from sunset to sunrise. At first, whale oil and kerosene were used to produce the light. Reflectors magnified the light beam. Later, electricity came to be used and a lens magnified the light beam. The light's color and flashing code could be used to identify the lighthouse at night.

In Florida, lighthouses were difficult to build because of soft sand, insects, and heat. They were difficult to maintain because of hurricanes. Over time, sometimes three or even four replacement towers were built at the same location.

Not only forces of nature challenged Florida's lighthouses. They were also challenged by historical events. During the Civil War, some became lookout posts and targets. After the war, materials such as cast iron and new technology such as skeletal steel towers permitted the construction of towers more suited to Florida's shores.

Today, 40 Florida lighthouses are listed on the Florida Lighthouse Page on the Internet. Some of these towers continue as active aids to navigation. Others serve as centerpieces to parks or historical sites. All remain as landmarks to their maritime



Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

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Answer the following questions after discussing the article in class.

- 1 Compare the oldest Florida lighthouse on the Atlantic Coast with the oldest Florida lighthouse on the Gulf Coast. How are they DIFFERENT? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ THINK EXPLAIN	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____

- 2 Use the map to determine which lighthouse-----?

- (A) -----
- (B) -----
- (C) -----
- (D) -----

- 3 Which lighthouse was destroyed and rebuilt the most?

- (F) St. Augustine Lighthouse
- (G) Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse
- (H) Cape San Blas Lighthouse
- (I) Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

- 4 Use the map to determine which lighthouse is furthest north on the Atlantic Coast?

- (A) Pensacola Lighthouse
- (B) Amelia Island Lighthouse
- (C) Key West Lighthouse
- (D) Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse