Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Circle group

Long ago, a very tall lighthouse stood in Egypt. It was on a small island called Pharos. The island was near the city of Alexandria.

Alexandria had a busy harbor. Many ships came and went. But the coast was low and flat. There were rocks under the water. At night, a captain could not see well.

The lighthouse helped. A fire burned at the top. Sailors could see it from far away. They knew where the harbor was. They stayed away from the rocks.

The lighthouse was so grand that it was called one of the Seven Wonders. It stood for many hundreds of years. Then earthquakes shook it down. People still remember it. In some languages, the word for lighthouse comes from Pharos.

Questions

1. Where was the lighthouse built?

_____

_____

2. What was the problem for ships?

_____

_____

3. What burned at the top of the lighthouse?

_____

_____

4. What brought the lighthouse down?

_____

_____

5. Why was it hard to steer a ship at night?

_____

_____

6. Why do some languages use a word from Pharos?

_____

_____

Words to know

lighthouse: a tall tower with a bright light to guide ships
harbor: a safe place where ships can stop
captain: the person in charge of a ship
sailors: people who work on a ship
earthquakes: times when the ground shakes hard

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Triangle group

More than two thousand years ago, a very tall lighthouse stood in Egypt. It was built on a small island called Pharos, near the city of Alexandria.

Alexandria had a busy harbor. Ships came and went all the time, bringing goods from many lands. But the coast there was low and flat, and there were rocks under the water. At night, a captain could hardly see where to steer.

The lighthouse solved the problem. A fire burned at the top, and sailors could see it from far out at sea. They knew where the harbor was, and they could stay away from the rocks.

The lighthouse was so tall and grand that people called it one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. It stood for many hundreds of years. In the end, earthquakes shook it down. Even so, it is not forgotten. In some languages, the word for lighthouse still comes from the name Pharos.

Questions

1. Where was the lighthouse built?

_____

_____

2. What was the problem for ships near Alexandria?

_____

_____

3. What burned at the top of the lighthouse?

_____

_____

4. What finally brought the lighthouse down?

_____

_____

5. Why was it hard to steer a ship near Alexandria at night?

_____

_____

6. Why do some languages use a word that comes from Pharos?

_____

_____

Words to know

lighthouse: a tall tower with a bright light to guide ships
harbor: a safe place where ships can stop
captain: the person in charge of a ship
sailors: people who work on a ship
earthquakes: times when the ground shakes hard

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Square group

More than two thousand years ago, an extraordinarily tall lighthouse rose above the coast of Egypt. It was built on a small island called Pharos, which lay close to the city of Alexandria.

Alexandria had a bustling harbor, where ships arrived and departed constantly, carrying goods from many distant lands. Unfortunately, the coast there was low and flat, and hidden rocks lay beneath the water. After dark, a captain could hardly make out where to steer.

The lighthouse solved this problem. A great fire burned at the top, and sailors could see its glow from far out at sea. It told them where the harbor was, and it warned them to keep away from the rocks.

The tower was so tall and magnificent that people counted it among the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. It stood for many hundreds of years before earthquakes finally shook it down. It has never been forgotten, though, and in some languages the word for lighthouse is still taken from the name Pharos.

Questions

1. Where was the lighthouse built?

_____

_____

2. What dangers did the coast near Alexandria hold for ships?

_____

_____

3. What burned at the top of the lighthouse?

_____

_____

4. What finally shook the lighthouse down?

_____

_____

5. Why was it so difficult for a captain to steer near Alexandria after dark?

_____

_____

6. Why is the word for lighthouse in some languages taken from Pharos?

_____

_____

Words to know

lighthouse: a tall tower with a bright light to guide ships
harbor: a safe place where ships can stop
captain: the person in charge of a ship
sailors: people who work on a ship
earthquakes: times when the ground shakes hard

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Easier · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. On a small island called Pharos, near Alexandria.
2. The coast was low and flat, and there were rocks under the water.
3. A fire.
4. Earthquakes.
5. A captain could not see the coast or the rocks in the dark.
6. The lighthouse was so famous that its name came to mean any lighthouse.

Triangle: The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

This passage · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. On a small island called Pharos, near the city of Alexandria.
2. The coast was low and flat, and there were rocks under the water.
3. A fire.
4. Earthquakes.
5. A captain could hardly see the coast or the rocks in the dark.
6. The lighthouse was so famous that its name came to mean any lighthouse.

Square: The Tall Lighthouse at Alexandria

Harder · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. On a small island called Pharos, close to the city of Alexandria.
2. The coast was low and flat, and hidden rocks lay beneath the water.
3. A great fire.
4. Earthquakes.
5. He could hardly make out the coast or the hidden rocks.
6. The tower was so famous that its name came to mean any lighthouse.