

ACTIVITY 2: READ ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE LIVING

This activity aims to provide students an understanding of what it's like to live in a lighthouse—and what lighthouse keepers have experienced throughout the history of active lighthouses in the Great Lakes.

They will read about Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Lighthouse in southern Lake Erie. They can also take a visual tour of the lighthouse in [this video version](#) of the story from *Great Lakes Today*.

In this activity, students will use a **Think Pair Square Protocol** for discussing the article that they will read individually.

First, distribute the article* entitled "[What's It Like to Live in a Lighthouse?](#)" by Elizabeth Miller from *Great Lakes Today*, giving students time individually to read the article, and ask them to jot down 3 things they learned in the article.

Then, have students pair up with a partner to discuss the article and which 3 points they noted from it.

Next, have two student pairs join up, standing near each other to form the four corners of a square, to discuss the article and what they talked about in their pairs.

Last, have each group come up with a summary statement of the most important point from their discussion and ask for a volunteer in each group to share that most important point with the whole group.



Image Credit: Great Lakes Today

As student groups share out their most important point, record their ideas on the board and have students copy the list of student ideas down into their notebooks.

After the shareout is complete, ask students to return to their groups and discuss one last question based on the article:

How do you think living in a lighthouse has changed from the mid-19th century (as described of the Spectacle Reef Lighthouse in the *Great Lakes Now* episode) as compared to modern times (as described of Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Lighthouse in the story of Sheila Consaul?)

After giving the groups some time to discuss this question, invite conversation from the entire class to compare living conditions in a lighthouse then and now.

**This article is available as an audio podcast, and also a [video](#), both linked on the article webpage. Students could listen or watch as a class while they follow the text along in the article on their own.*

Further Reading on the Subject:

An additional article further discussing [the challenges lighthouses face from climate change](#) is available from *Great Lakes Now* for students to read and discuss with one another, again, using the **Think Pair Square Protocol**.

Teaching Tip: Use the Student Handouts to help students organize their thinking in writing around each of the lesson protocols.