

Name _____

The Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is world famous. It has an unusual design. It is one of the most unusual buildings in the world. The opera house is Sydney's most famous landmark. It is located in Sydney Harbor.

Day 1

1. What clues does the title give you about the passage? _____
2. Does the first paragraph tell you where Sydney is? _____
3. Do you think the opera house is near water? _____
4. What details from the paragraph helped you answer question 3? _____

Danish architect Jørn Utzon designed the Sydney Opera House. He won a contest for his design. Work began in 1959 and was completed in 1973. The estimate for the Sydney Opera House was \$7 million (Australian). However, the final cost was \$102 million.

Day 2

1. Does this paragraph give you a clue about where Sydney is? If so, where? _____
2. How long did it take to build the Sydney Opera House? _____
3. How much was the building estimated to cost? _____
4. Was the cost estimate accurate? Explain. _____

Utzon wanted the roof to look like sails on a giant sailing ship. Some people think the roof looks like huge seashells. The roof is made of 10 gigantic arched-concrete shell shapes. The shells have ribs that curve inward. Concrete joins the ribs where they meet. One of the biggest cranes in the world lifted the concrete roof pieces into place. Working on the building was dangerous because of the roof.

Day 3

1. Does the Sydney Opera House look like Utzon wanted it to? _____
2. What clues helped you answer question 1? _____
3. What holds the ribs of the shells in place? _____
4. What do you think the danger was with the roof? _____

The opera house contains one hall for operas. The orchestra plays in another hall. A third hall is for plays. A fourth is for chamber music. The fifth is for exhibitions.

Day 4

1. What fraction of halls are used for music? _____
2. What kind of music do orchestras and chamber music groups play?
A. Hip-hop B. Classical C. Contemporary country
3. Which, if any, of the activities that take place in the Sydney Opera House would you enjoy? Explain. _____
4. What kind of music or other event do you think they should have at the opera house? _____

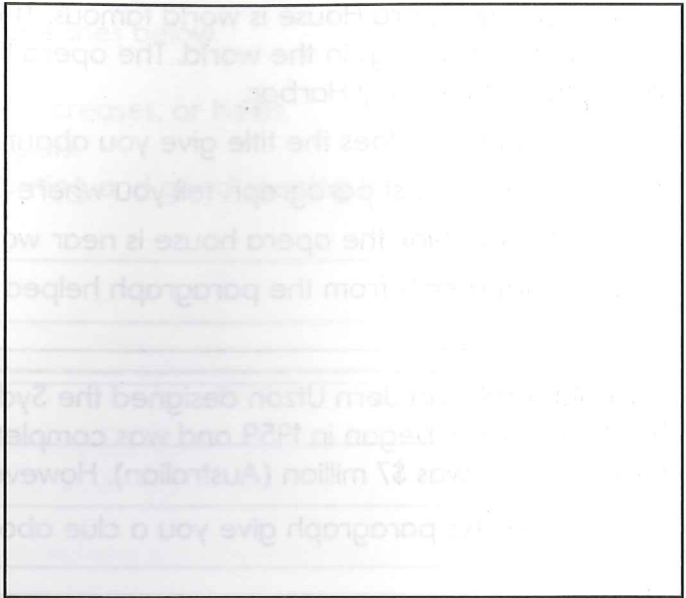
Name _____

Lighthouses

Imagine you're trying to get home. A storm has been raging for hours. The sea has been tossing your small sailing craft up and down, and you are not sure where you are. Suddenly in the distance, you see a faint light. You know you are safe and almost home.

Lighthouses were built to guide ships into coastal waters. They were built at dangerous points on coastlines, usually near reefs or at entrances to harbors. The earliest known lighthouse was built in Egypt. It was called Pharos. Pharos was completed about 280 BC.

Boston Light was built in 1716. It was the first lighthouse in the colonies. By the time the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, the United States had 12 lighthouses, mostly in New England. In 1800, the United States had 16 lighthouses, and by 1812, it had about 49 lighthouses. The first West Coast lighthouses were completed in 1854 and 1855 in California.



1. Is this passage fiction or nonfiction? _____
2. How does the author hook the reader? _____
3. Why were lighthouses built? _____
4. Why do you think so many lighthouses were built during the colonial days? _____

5. Research a lighthouse. Draw an illustration in the box above to show your findings. Write a caption for your illustration.