

Piedras Blancas Light Station



Bureau of Land Management

Junior Explorer



In this activity booklet you will read about the history of Piedras Blancas Light Station and about the plants and animals that live on or near the light station.

Your name _____

Date of visit _____

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that takes care of more than 245 million acres of land. These lands are public land and belong to all Americans.

What is the difference between a lighthouse and a light station?



The lighthouse is the structure with the light on top.



The light station is all the buildings: house, sheds, fog signal, oil house, barn, and lighthouse.

Lighthouse



Daymarks

Lighthouses have different shapes and colors so sailors can tell them apart. These differences are called “daymarks”.

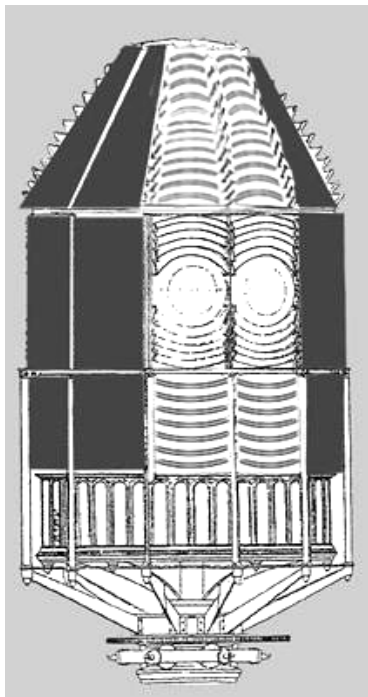
What were the daymarks of the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, as seen in this photo?

Answer: It was cone-shaped and painted white with black trim.

Light

At night sailors were guided by the flashing light of lighthouses. The flash was produced by a rotating lens. Every lighthouse had a different flash pattern called the light characteristic.

What was the light characteristic produced by the Piedras Blancas lens seen here?

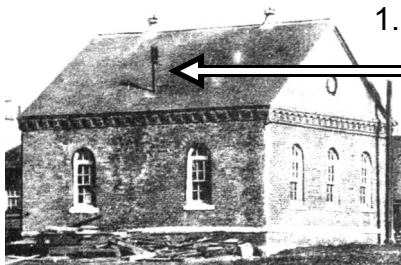


Answer: There was a double flash
...flash, flash, darkness...
flash, flash, flash, darkness.

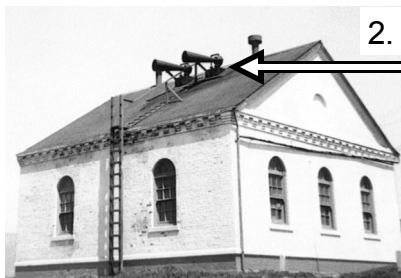
Fog Signal Building

Sound

When it was foggy a sound signal was used to guide the sailors.



1. In early years a whistle created a high pitched sound "EEEEEE"



2. Later, foghorns created low pitched sound "BEEE-OHH"

What sound could be heard the farthest, a high or a low sound?

Answer: 2. A low sound.

Marine Mammals

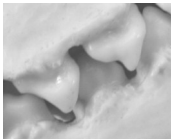
Marine mammals eat their food in different ways.

Seals have pointed teeth for grabbing.

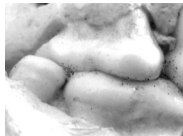
Sea otters have flat molars for grinding.

Some whales have baleen to strain food.

Whose teeth are these, seal or sea otter?

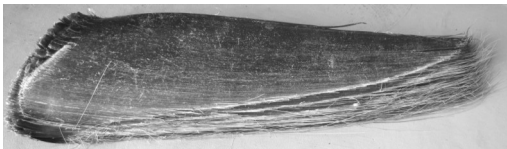


A



B

Which animal has baleen?



C

Answer: A-seal, B-sea otter, C-whale

Harbor Seal and Sea Lion



A



B

Harbor seals have spotted fur, short flippers and no external ear flap.

Sea lions have solid colored fur, large front flippers, and a small external ear flap.

In the above photos, which is a harbor seal and which is a sea lion?

Answer: A-harbor seal, B-sea lion

Piedra Blanca



1. What does “Piedra Blanca” mean?
2. What makes it white?

Answer: 1-white rock, 2-bird droppings

Look for these birds on or near Piedra Blanca.



brown
pelican



western gull



Brandt's
cormorant

Look for these plants...



seaside woolly
yarrow



tree
lupine



dune
buckwheat



seaside
poppy



hedge
nettle



seaside
daisy

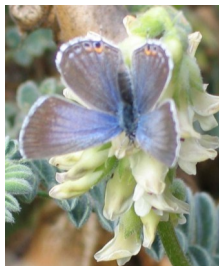
Also look for these animal tracks.....



...and animals along the trail.



yellow-faced
bumble bee



western blue
butterfly



white crowned
sparrow



California
ground squirrel



western fence
lizard

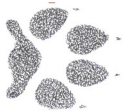


brush
rabbit



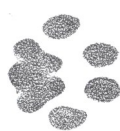
raccoon

coyote



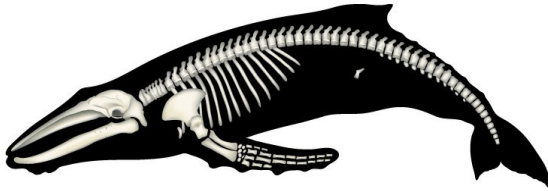
9

bobcat



Whales

What kind of whale did the bones on display come from?



Answer: humpback

What kind of whale calf is counted at Piedras Blancas Light Station?



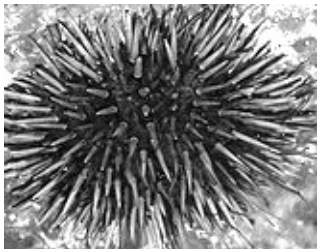
Answer: gray whale

Sea Otter



Sea otters help kelp forests by eating animals that eat kelp.

Which animal below eats kelp forests?



A. sea urchin



B. sea star

Answer: A. sea urchin

Elephant Seal



Do elephant seals spend most of their lives on land or at sea?

Answer: at sea

What do elephant seals do on land?

- A. Rest
- B. Give birth
- C. Molt (shed the outer layer of skin and fur)
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above

Life at the Light Station



Which of the following made life at the Piedras Blancas Light Station difficult?

- A. Strong winds
- B. Not enough water
- C. Isolation
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above

Would you liked to have lived at the Piedras Blancas Light Station? Why or why not?

For later

Unscramble words



gfo gnsila dlibgiun



ihlgtuesoh ekerep



risPeda salnBca githlsuheo

Answers: fog signal building, lighthouse keeper,
Piedras Blancas lighthouse

Elephant Seal Word Search

Find the following words in the search below.

Elephant seals eat at sea.

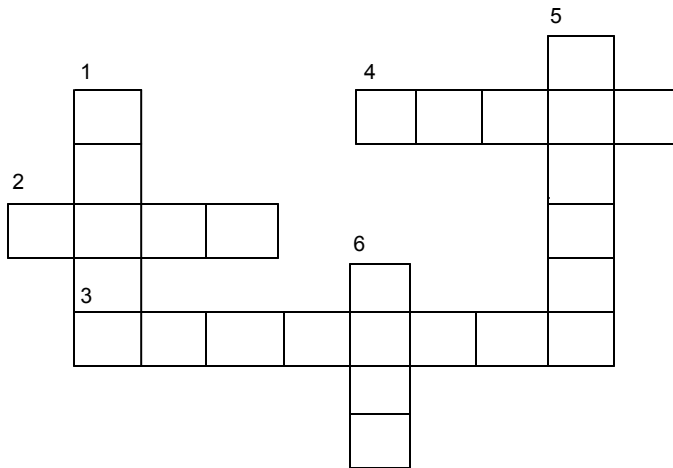
Z	A	E	A	T	O	C	A
Q	B	L	U	B	B	E	T
B	S	E	A	L	S	U	O
R	U	P	U	Q	S	V	R
I	B	H	M	Y	V	E	U
S	E	A	N	E	R	I	L
C	A	N	L	R	T	R	M
O	C	T	Y	A	P	O	C
M	H	B	Z	Y	S	W	O
L	X	U	K	N	O	M	T

For later



Crossword puzzle

1. In the fog sailors were guided by _____.
2. What are elephant seal babies called?
3. The daytime characteristics of a lighthouse are called _____.
4. At night sailors were guided by _____.
5. Some of these animals have baleen.
6. What is a baby whale called?



Answers: (1) sound (2) pups (3) daymarks
(4) light (5) whales (6) calf

Central California lighthouses you can visit

San Francisco



Pigeon Point

Monterey Bay



Point Pinos



Point Sur

Piedras Blancas



Point San Luis



Santa Barbara

Place passport stamp here
(available in gift shop)



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