



Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation Education Program – Lesson Plans

Grade Level: K-3

Lesson Topic: Island Life

Length: 50 min.

RI Standard of Learning: Social Science (History), Family Life, English (Composition), Art (Visual Art)

Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to life as it was in the 1900s and will learn by relating to a former lighthouse keeper who was their age.

Materials: Rose Island Beacon, beach glass, shells, pencils, crayons, pictures of Wanton Chase at the lighthouse, bags to collect items on the beach

Vocabulary: Lighthouse keeper, anachronism, history, amenity

Procedure:

On Rose Island: The students will get to spend time on the beach while on their field trip to Rose Island. During that time the students will be combing the beach for smooth glass, marine debris, shells and any other interesting items they may come across. Students are allowed to keep a few items that have already been processed by the waves. For example: beach glass with smooth edges, round pebbles, and shells. Also during the tour, the students will be learning about life as a lighthouse keeper during the early 1900s. While in the lighthouse they will be allowed to touch and explore everything from the Victrola to the coal stove.

In the Classroom:

- Introduction: Ask students to recall their time out at Rose Island. Ask them to recall the items that they had saved from the lighthouse as well as the things at the lighthouse they liked. Read excerpts of the boyhood story of Wanton Chase in the Rose Island Beacon.
- Development: Ask the students what things in the story are different from their lives today. Have students draw pictures of themselves doing an activity or chore on Rose Island or in the lighthouse. Hang the drawings around the classroom. Create a classroom chore list of things that everyone can help to take care of. Students can be "Classroom keepers."
- Closure: Have the students create a composition describing what two things they would bring with them if they were stranded at Rose Island given the lack of modern amenities.

Evaluation: This activity is to help children understand what it was like to live in the past and to be a lighthouse keeper. During the activities make sure everyone is participating. Look over the drawings and writings to make sure they are on the right track. Suggest alternatives if they seem to have missed the point.

References:

Chase, Wanton. Rose Island Beacon: Boyhood Life at Rose Island. No.1. Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Dec. 2001.

Suggested Reading:

Chase, Mary Ellen. The Story of Lighthouses. W.W. Norton & Company, 1965. - *Stories and history of lighthouses around the world.*