

Background: Lighthouse of Alexandria

Some background information:

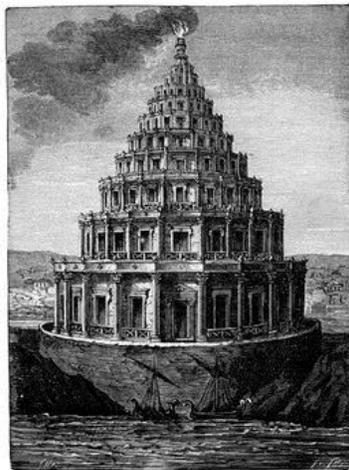
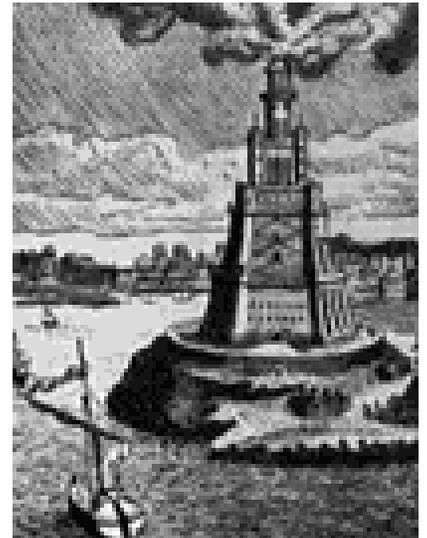
The Lighthouse of Alexandria was one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World. Situated on the small offshore island of Pharos, the Lighthouse lit the way for many a sailor navigating the tricky harbor into what was then one of the world's centres of civilization. Pharos actually was not a true island: it was connected to the mainland by a dike, called the Heptastadion. In this way, Alexandria had two harbors, one on either side of the dike.

The lighthouse was the idea of Ptolemy Soter, who took over command of Egypt after the death of Alexander the Great. He ordered construction began in 290 B.C. The project was so daunting that it was completed after his death, by his son Ptolemy Philadelphus.

The main architect for the project was a man named Sostratus. Detailed calculations for the project were completed at the famed Library of Alexandria.

The Lighthouse was a huge building that had three parts, one built right on top of another. The lowest part was square and was 183.4 feet high. The middle was octagonal in shape and was 90 feet high. The highest part was a 24-foot-high cylinder. The total height, including the base, was 384 feet, which would be a 40-story building in modern times.

Inside the base was a cylinder that stretched from bottom to top and carried fuel needed to light the fire that burned from the top of the structure. This fire was the beacon during the night. In the daytime, a mirror reflected sunlight and served as the same sort of beacon. (A legend says also that the mirror could be used to burn enemy ships before they could sail into the harbor.)



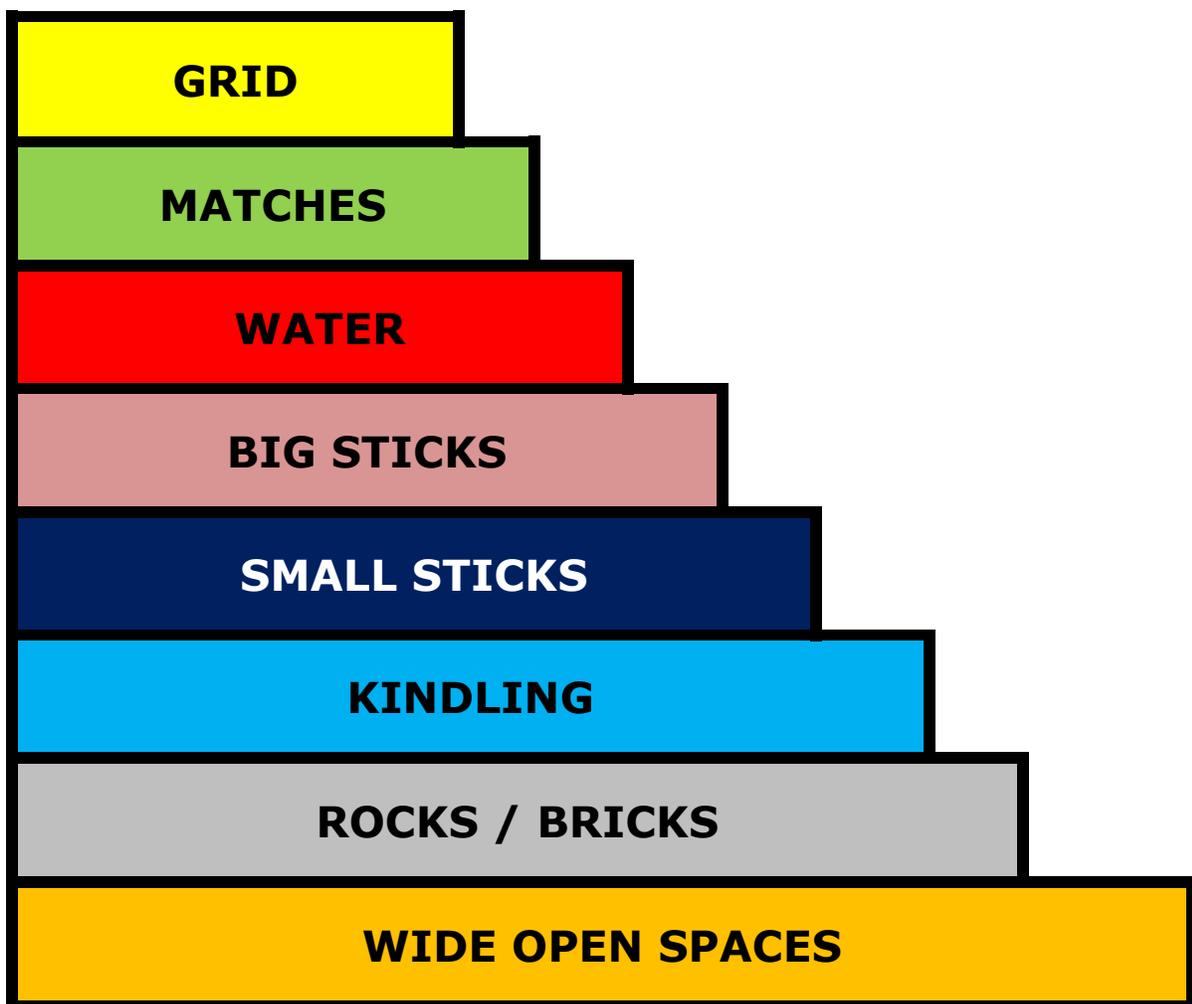
The Lighthouse stood for centuries, first and foremost as a beacon to travelers and next as a tribute to the greatness of Hellenic civilization. Earthquakes eventually brought down the famed structure, however. The first one, in 1303, shook up the entire area; the second one, 20 years later, did significant structural damage. By this time, also, the Lighthouse had fallen into disrepair because the Arab conqueror of Egypt didn't keep it up. Although the Lighthouse soldiered on, it was done in entirely by Sultan Qaitbay in 1480. The sultan used the stone and marble that had once made up the Lighthouse to build a fort on the very spot where the Lighthouse once stood.

Also look at:

<http://7wonders.mrdonn.org/lighthouse.html>

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/worldhistory/pharoslighthouse.htm>

Wide Game:	Fire Making
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Handcraft:

Tin or Paper Bag Lanterns

Make your own tea light lantern using brown paper bags, jam jars and/or recycled food tins.

You will need:

For tin lanterns:

Recycled food tins, any sizes
Hammer
Nails, ideally different sizes
Ribbon or raffia (optional)

For bag lanterns:

Brown paper bags
Jam jars
Scissors



Tin Lanterns

Collect various food tins in varying sizes and heights. Wash well and leave to dry. Next fill with water and leave in the freezer overnight. The reason for this is to make a hard inner so that when you start to 'punch' shapes with your nails and hammer into the tin, it won't lose its shape. You can use all sorts of size nails to make patterns with – choose your pattern, draw onto tin with pencil, chalk or anything else that can be washed off. Punch out your pattern by knocking a nail into the tin to create lots of small holes. When complete and happy with your design, leave to defrost in the sink and dry once ice has melted. Be careful to leave on the side to dry naturally as rust can occur very quickly. Decorate tins with raffia or ribbon if you wish but they work great just with their 'punched' image.

Bag Lanterns

You can very easily create some fabulous tea light lanterns with our brown paper bags without handles and this project is also great for small people who may struggle a little with a hammer and nails needed for the tins.

Select an image from the templates or design your own images – see picture for ideas and draw onto the middle of a brown paper bag. You will need to leave the bottom 4-5cm bare and also the top 12cm. The reason for this is that once you have cut the images, this weakens the bag and it needs the base and top uncut to hold its shape.

Now cut of the image / pattern with scissors being careful not to crumble the bag too much. If you have a very big pattern image it may help to add some strips of cardboard in the corners for support but shouldn't be necessary in most cases.

Next, find a jam jar or glass big enough to hold a tea light and place inside the bag. This not only stops the bag (which is NOT fireproof) burning, it also weighs down the bag so it doesn't fly away on windy days. Use both in and outdoors.

Other links for lanterns:

<http://hubpages.com/hub/cute-clever-tin-can-craft-projects>

<http://frugalfun4boys.com/2014/05/04/make-star-wars-tin-can-lanterns/>

<http://www.pipii.co.uk/pipii-notebook/craft-ideas/tin-paper-bag-tea-light-lanterns.html>