

LIGHTHOUSE

Background:

During the Gold Rush, California and San Francisco Bay were visited by many tall ships delivering goods and men ready to seek their fortunes. However, the California coastline was very dangerous for mariners, with hidden reefs and submerged rocks. California lighthouses were built at the most dangerous points, protecting those onboard and keeping cargo from being destroyed.

There are two lighthouses in San Mateo County: the Point Montara Lighthouse and the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Built in 1872, the Pigeon Point Lighthouse was named for the Yankee Clipper *Carrier Pigeon*, which sank off the point in 1853. It is the tallest lighthouse on the Pacific Coast.

Directions:

1. Take a cardboard tube and make 1/2 inch cuts around the bottom.
2. Bend the tabs outward so that the tube rests on the tabs. Glue the bottom of the tabs onto a piece of green (grass) or blue (water) construction paper.
3. Take a square of yellow tissue paper and wrap it around a ball of cotton. Insert the ball into the top of the tube so that only a small amount of the yellow ball appears at the top.
4. Color your light house, and add shells for decoration.



San Mateo County Historical Association