Saving a Landmark

Trace central ideas and evidence in a historical account.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraph 2, number the four main actions in the first two sentences that describe how workers began moving the lighthouse. Underline the sentence in each of the other two paragraphs that states its key idea, so you can track the account from problem to solution to significance.

Saving a Moving Landmark

1 By the late 1990s, waves had eaten away much of the beach in front of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on North Carolina's Outer Banks. When the lighthouse was completed in 1870, it stood about 1,500 feet from the ocean. A century later, the water was dangerously close. Engineers considered building walls or taking the structure apart, but those choices could damage the tall brick tower or only delay the problem. Instead, they proposed moving the entire lighthouse inland.

2 In 1999, workers prepared a route almost half a mile long. They lifted the 4,830-ton lighthouse with hydraulic jacks, placed it on steel beams, and set it onto a system of tracks and rollers. The move advanced in carefully measured stages, so crews could monitor the masonry and adjust the equipment if needed. After twenty-three days, the tower had traveled about 2,900 feet to its new site. Its black-and-white spiral pattern and historic brick walls remained intact.

3 The relocation did not end the coast's changes. Erosion continues along the Outer Banks, and the National Park Service monitors the shoreline near the lighthouse. Still, the project showed that preservation can involve more than protecting a building in one fixed place. By relocating the tower, engineers preserved a navigational landmark and its relationship to the surrounding landscape. Visitors can now see why the lighthouse was built near a shifting coast, while standing safely beyond the reach of ordinary waves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem in paragraph 1 caused engineers to consider moving the lighthouse? Explain why the other choices were not ideal.

2. How does paragraph 2 help you understand that moving the lighthouse required care? Use two details from the paragraph.

3. What does the detail that the spiral pattern and historic brick walls remained intact reveal about the result of the project?

4. State the central idea of the full passage. Then explain how the final paragraph adds to that idea.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an exactly three-sentence museum label about the lighthouse project. Summarize the threat, explain one method workers used, and state what the project shows about preservation. Use your own words and include one number from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Saving a Landmark

GRADE 8 · RI.8.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In paragraph 2, number the four main actions in the first two sentences that describe how workers began moving the lighthouse. Underline the sentence in each of the other two paragraphs that states its key idea, so you can track the account from problem to solution to significance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem in paragraph 1 caused engineers to consider moving the lighthouse? Explain why the other choices were not ideal.	**Erosion had brought the ocean dangerously close to the lighthouse. Walls might only delay the problem, and taking the tower apart could damage it.**
2	How does paragraph 2 help you understand that moving the lighthouse required care? Use two details from the paragraph.	**Workers used hydraulic jacks, steel beams, tracks, and rollers, and they moved the tower in measured stages so crews could monitor the masonry and adjust equipment.**
3	What does the detail that the spiral pattern and historic brick walls remained intact reveal about the result of the project?	**It shows that the move preserved the lighthouse's recognizable appearance and historic structure.**
4	State the central idea of the full passage. Then explain how the final paragraph adds to that idea.	**The passage explains how Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was moved to protect it from erosion. The final paragraph shows that the move also demonstrates that preservation can require changing a landmark's location.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Erosion brought the ocean dangerously close to Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. In 1999, workers used hydraulic jacks, tracks, and rollers to move the 4,830-ton tower inland. The project shows that protecting a historic landmark can sometimes mean moving it to a safer place.

Accept equivalent summaries that accurately connect erosion, the relocation process, and the broader idea about preservation. For the marking task, students should number prepared a route, lifted, placed, and set, and underline the final sentence of paragraph 1 and the third sentence of paragraph 3.