

# THIS PLACE IS A WRECK!

## 1850

Shipping increased in the area after the Presqu'île Lighthouse was built. Additional lights, called range lights, which were much smaller than lighthouses, were built later to help ships steer clear of land. Even with these extra lights, not all ships were able to complete their journeys safely.

### Ship's Log: 1886

#### The Sinking of the Ida Walker

Many ships met their fate off the shores of Presqu'île. On the morning of November 17, 1886, the Great Lakes schooner Ida Walker was loading barley at the nearby town of Wellington. Upon leaving the harbour, a fierce storm gathered.

Although the crew tried to sail the Ida Walker into Presqu'île Bay, they did not make it.

The storm battered the ship and broke their lifeboat. The crew was forced to hang onto what was left of the ship, freezing in the storm and the late fall waters.

People lined the beach watching and waiting. They lit fires in case any of the crew members washed to shore. A lifeboat from Wellington arrived and rowed out to the wreck. They were able to save all of the crew, but one.

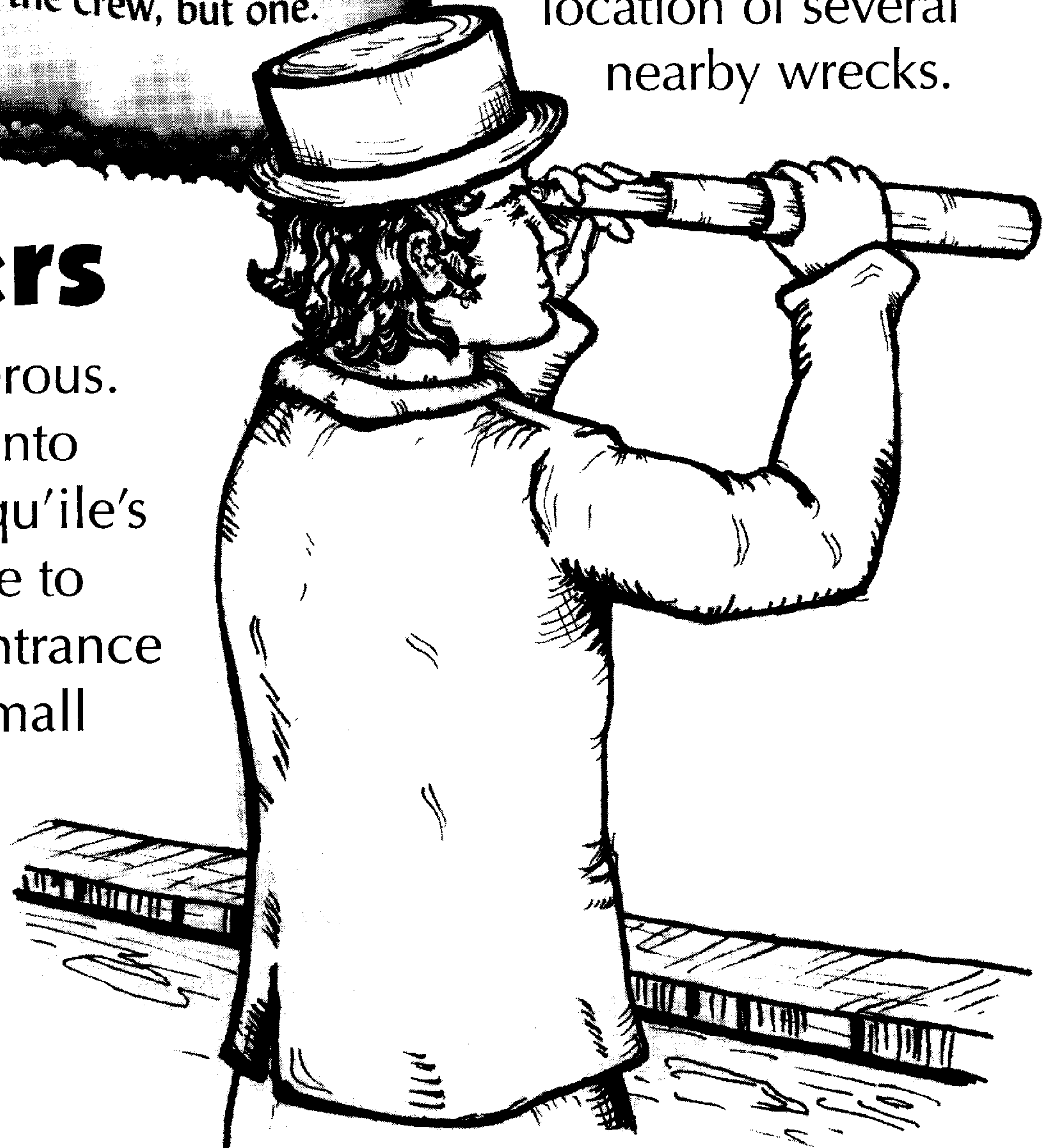
### Did you know?

There are many shipwrecks around Presqu'île. For more information, visit the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and watch the shipwreck videos.

At the base of the Lighthouse, you can find an interpretive panel showing the location of several nearby wrecks.

## Dangerous Waters

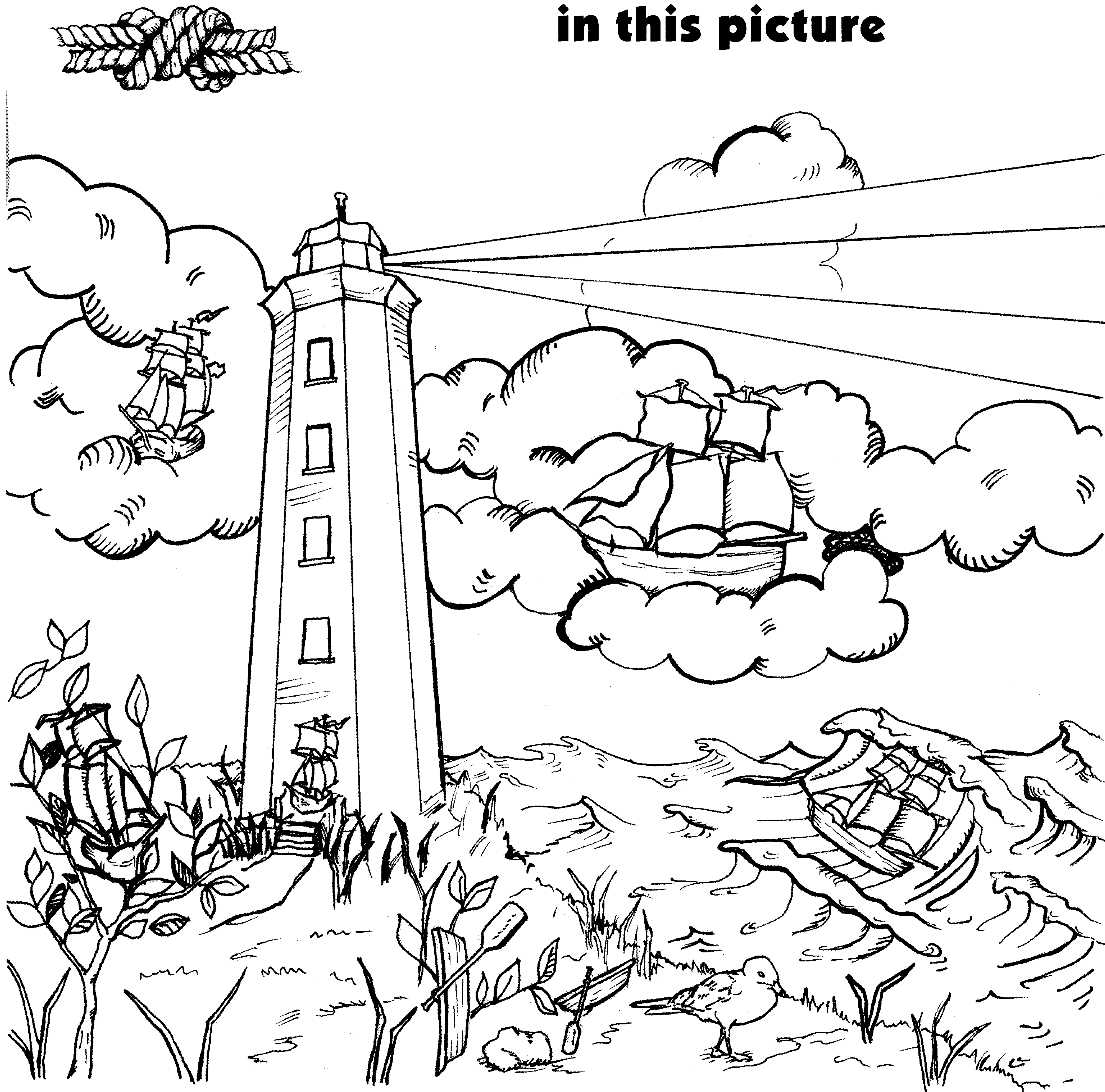
Water travel continued to be very dangerous. Ships could be blown off course, crash into rocks or experience severe storms. Presqu'île's sheltered harbour gave ships a safe place to rest during their travels. However, the entrance to the harbour is shallow and narrow. Small range lights on High Bluff Island and Salt Point helped to guide ships, just as the bigger lighthouse did. Even with these extra lights, many ships still ran into difficulty.





## Activity

# Find the boats that are hiding in this picture



In bad weather, it was easy for a lighthouse keeper to lose sight of ships out in the lake. Would you make a good lighthouse keeper?

**There are seven ships in this stormy scene. You can help me find them. Colour them as you find them.**

**Do you know** the difference between a deep water and a shallow water shipwreck? You will find the answer in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre Gallery.