Title	The Michigan City Lighthouse
Subject area / Grade Level	Social Studies/ Third Grade
Investigative Question	Why is the Michigan City Lighthouse important to the development of our regional community and how it was constructed?

IN Academic Standards and/or Common Core Standards

Language Arts
3.5.2 Write descriptive pieces about people, places, things, or experiences that:
• develop a unified main idea.
• use details to support the main idea.

Social Studies

3.1.6 Use a variety of community resources to gather information about the regional communities. (Individuals, Society and Culture) Example: Libraries, museums, county historians, chambers of commerce, Web sites, and digital newspapers and archives

3.1.4 Give examples of people, events and developments that brought important changes to the regions of Indiana. (Individuals, Society and Culture)
Example: Developments in transportation, such as the building of canals, roads and railroads, connected communities and caused changes in population or industry.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing this lesson the students will be able to:
- State why Michigan City has a historical lighthouse and what jobs the lighthouse keeper did during the time it was in operation.
- Describe how the lighthouse was engineered and create a model of it with a variety of materials such as K-Nex, recycled materials, etc.
- Explain what the current practices are that are used to keep boats safe along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Duration

Several class periods

Materials & Citation of Resources

Materials: Student Journals

Primary Sources from LOC:

Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey:

** Note- there are nine drawings at this LOC primary source that shows the plans for building the Michigan City Lighthouse. I have included three in this written lesson plan as reminders.**

1.
http://www.loc.gov/search/?q=michigan+city+lighthouse
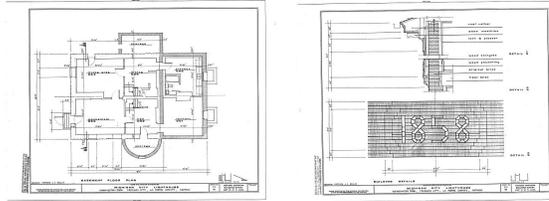
** The data pages (link below) prepared by the National Park Service (historical buildings) includes information about the history of the lighthouse.
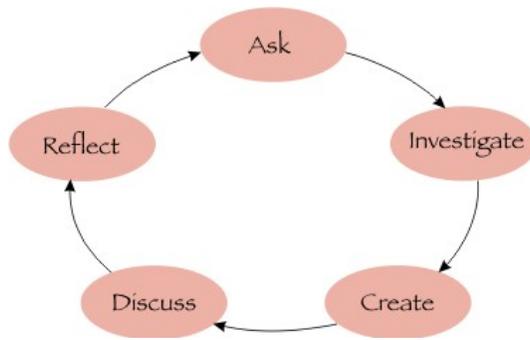2.
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pnp/habshaer/in/in0100/in0149/data/in0149data.pdf

Additional Primary Sources:
- Speakers from the Old Lighthouse Museum
- History of LaPorte County books
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Inquiry Based Learning Model

Ask – Focus Question "Why it the Michigan City Lighthouse important to the development of our region and how was it constructed?

Investigate- Primary Sources listed above from the LOC will be shared with the class to build prior knowledge. Students will read the book Abby and the Lighthouse before visiting the Old Lighthouse Museum. They will compare and contrast the lighthouse in this book to the lighthouse in Michigan City. They will sketch the outside of the museum and or one of the rooms.

Create- Students will use a variety of materials to create a model of the lighthouse and write a descriptive paragraph which would include at least 5 facts they learned. They will use math skills such as perimeter and area to include in their drawings.

Discuss – Students will share their projects with their buddy classroom. They will be showcasing their projects at the quarterly STEM Celebration.

Reflect – The MCAS writing rubric will be used to assess the descriptive paragraph. Students will use the Engineering Design Process to complete their model of the lighthouse.