

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

"Wow! Look at that lighthouse," exclaimed Mark. "Race you to the top," he yelled at his friend Gregg as he started to run. Mark and Gregg climbed the steps winding around and around inside the red 150 foot tall Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. Once they reached the top they could see the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian River, the Jupiter Inlet, the Inner-coastal waterway and the drawbridge on Highway 1.

Florida

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, located in Florida, has a long and productive history. Construction of the brick tower on its oyster shell base was begun in 1853. Small boats down the Indian River brought all of the supplies in. The Third Seminole War halted construction from 1856-1858. The lighthouse was completed in 1860, but was made inoperable by the Confederates during the Civil War.

Civil War

Once back in operation after the Civil War, the light could once again be seen 24 nautical miles (28 miles) at sea.

In 1889 a weather bureau station and signal station was established on the lighthouse grounds. Passing ships were signaled from the lighthouse by semaphore (flags) during the day and at night by flares.

By 1936 the Navy was operating a Radio Compass station as an aid to navigation. In 1939, at the start of World War II in Europe, the Navy established an Intelligence Listening Post at the Radio Station, which by 1940 became the Navy's Radio Detection Finding Station, known as "Station J." This secret installation was designed to intercept German U-boat radio messages and warn Allied ships and help US forces attack enemy vessels. In May 1943, 30 German U-boats were destroyed and another 37 U-boats were destroyed in June; the men of Station J had located most of these submarines.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is open to the public so boys like Mark and Gregg can climb to the top.

1. When was the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse completed?
 - a. 1853

- b. 1860
- c. 1936
- d. 1943

2. What is a U-boat?

- a. A boat shaped like a U
- b. The first type of submarine
- c. "Destroyer" class ship
- d. "Aircraft Carrier" ship

3. How did the Men of Station J find the U-boats?

- a. Saw the boats from the top of the lighthouse
- b. Used radar located at the top of the lighthouse
- c. Intercepted radio signals from the U-boats
- d. A and B

4. What was the lighthouse originally used for?

- a. A weather station
- b. To warn ships when the ships were approaching the coast
- c. Listening post
- d. Historic Register open to the public

