

Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

Grace Darling was born in Bamburgh, Northumberland. She was born to William and Thomasin Darling and she was the seventh of nine children. When she was only a few weeks old, her family moved to one of the Farne Islands: Brownsman Island. Here, her father was a lighthouse keeper and they resided in a small cottage next to



the lighthouse. After a short while, in search of better conditions, the family moved to another of the Farne Islands; Longstone Island. This time they inhabited a new lighthouse. Despite having better living conditions, the island was limited with resources so William would row back to Brownsman Island to stock up. Their lighthouse consisted of a large room at the bottom with a spiral staircase leading to the bedrooms.

Interesting Fact!

The Forefareshire had been carrying 62 people.

Why Is She Remembered?

In the early hours of 7th September, there was a violent storm.

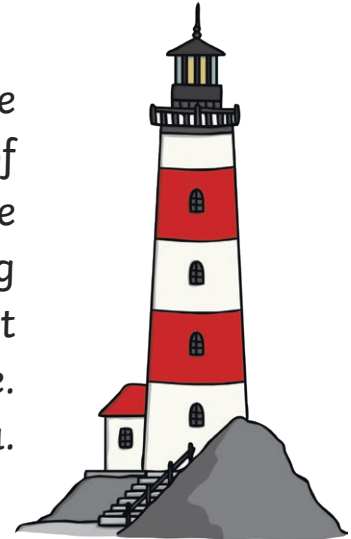
When looking out of a window, Grace spotted a shipwreck on Big Harcar, which was a nearby rocky island. The ship, named Forfarshire, was upon the rocks and had broken in half because the lighthouse on the island was ineffective. Feeling that the sea was too rough for the lifeboat, Grace and her father used a four-man rowing boat to row for one mile to search for any survivors.

Grace stayed on board, keeping the boat steady while her father rescued four men and the lone surviving woman.

Grace stayed at the lighthouse with the survivors, while her father went back to rescue four more people. Grace and her father were commended with a silver medal and she was branded a heroine. She received many gifts, including £50 from Queen Victoria.

The Shipwreck of 1838

In Britain, the first lighthouse was built at the time when stronger and more weatherproof lighthouses were being invented. The Eddystone rocks were a shipwreck hazard for those sailing through the English Channel and the first lighthouse was an octagonal wooden structure. It was the first tower to be exposed to open sea. It has been rebuilt three times.



Grace and her father rowing a coble boat through the storm towards survivors of the shipwreck. The ship had crashed into rocks because of bad weather and had split in two almost immediately.

Remembering Grace Darling



After Grace's death, she was buried in her hometown. A large cenotaph reminds people of Grace and celebrates her life. Additionally, a monument was placed on the Great Farne Island. A lifeboat was named after her and presented to Holy Island. A museum was also opened in Bamburgh where people can remember her by looking at the boat that was used to rescue the people on that tragic night.

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Grace Darling

1. Explain what 'resided' means.

2. What does 'inhabited' mean? How is this word linked to our science about living things?

3. Explain why the Forfarshire was wrecked.

4. How far did Grace and her father have to row to reach the survivors?

5. Which important person gave Grace an award for her heroism?

6. Explain why you think the large cenotaph to Grace Darling was built in her hometown and not on the island near the lighthouse?

Grace Darling: **Answers**

1. Explain what 'resided' means.

Resided means 'lived in' – she lived in the small cottage.

2. What does 'inhabited' mean? How is this word linked to our science about living things?

Inhabited also means 'lived in'. It is linked to science because we are looking at the habitats of invertebrates which are the places where they live.

3. Explain why the Forfarshire was wrecked.

There was a violent storm and the lighthouse on the island was ineffective which means it wasn't good enough, its light couldn't be seen easily by ships.

4. How far did Grace and her father have to row to reach the survivors?

One mile.

5. Which important person gave Grace an award for her heroism?

Queen Victoria.

6. Explain why you think the large cenotaph to Grace Darling was built in her hometown and not on the island near the lighthouse?

I think this is because it is difficult to get to the island. Not many people go there. More people will see it in her hometown.