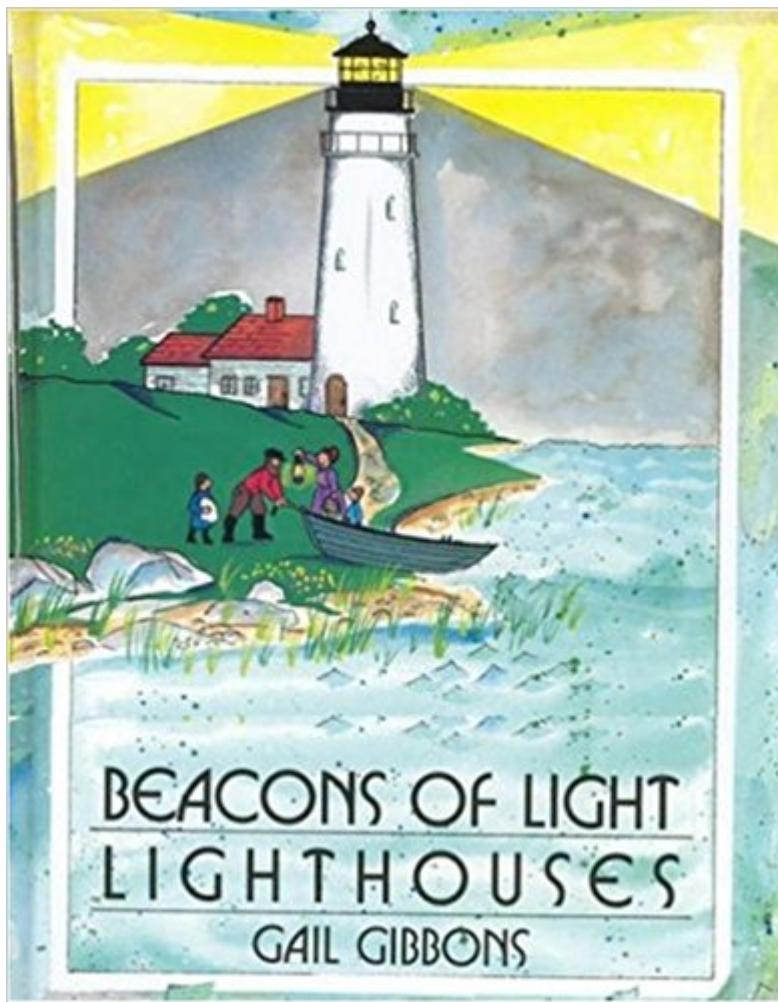


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# Beacons Of Light



## **Synopsis**

FLASH... FLASH... FLASH...A lighthouse signals from the rocky shore, guiding ships away from danger. Once sailors watched for giant bonfires that were set high on hills. Now, most lighthouses are fully automated. In Beacons of Light: Lighthouses, Gail Gibbons tells all about these beautiful and useful structures, using careful explanations, colorful facts, and helpful illustrations to show how lighthouse technology has developed and changed over the years. FLASH... FLASH... FLASH... In this informative, delightfully evocative book, lighthouses are beacons of light that remind us of our past.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (March 23, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688073794

ISBN-13: 978-0688073794

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #235,843 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work #121 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #154 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 2-4-- Gibbons combines clear, colorful illustrations with lucid, simple text in tracing the history of lighthouses in this country. The important role of these "beacons of light" from the earliest lighthouse in Boston harbor to those existing today is outlined. Mention is also made of the lonely, sometimes arduous life of lighthouse keepers and their families, who lived year-round on these isolated outposts. Gibbons details in depth how the sources of light changed over the centuries, from the earliest oil-fueled wick lamps to modern electricity-powered signals. There is a paucity of material available on this subject; Smith's Lighthouses (Houghton, 1971; o.p.) and Carse's Keepers of the Lights (Scribners, 1969; o.p.) are targeted for older readers. This title could be a useful tool

for reports, or for interested recreational readers. --Martha Rosen, Edgewood School, Scarsdale, NYCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gail Gibbons, author of more than one hundred books, is the winner of the Washington Post/Children's Book Guild Award for her overall contribution to children's nonfiction literature. Called a "master of picture book nonfiction" by ALA Booklist, Ms. Gibbons has a special talent for making complex subjects understandable and entertaining for young readers.

Excellent start for the study of non fiction and teaching the recognition of important ideas past and present.

Gail Gibbons--make note of that name, teachers and parents, for it is a name of an excellent science writer/illustrator! Only Simon Seymour with his essays and photographs is her equal. Gibbons takes a subject and--through prose and illustrations--shows the history and process. "Beacons of Light: Lighthouses" is a bit different. This book is more a celebration of lighthouses than of process. First, she illustrates four famous lighthouses set against seemingly water-sprayed end papers for a mystical effect. Next she shows how lighthouses help locate danger areas for ships, then drops back thousands of years for a quick historical recounting of those beacons of light from bonfires at the tops of hills to the bonfires in stone towers. America's first lighthouse was built on an island outside Boston harbor. Wicks, wick trimmers, kerosene lamps, prisms, loneliness, dangerous work, electricity, the Coast Guard--all are part of the history of lighthouses. Fog and anti-fog devices are also important. Do you know that the Statue of Liberty was the first electrified lighthouse or that the tallest is in Japan? Gail Gibbons is a name to know and trust. Other books in her science repertoire of over 120 titles include: The Honey Makers Recycle! A Handbook for Kids; Ice Cream: The Full Scoop; Weather Forecasting; The Post Office Book: Mail and How It Moves; And that is just a sampling!

Being from North Carolina, it was delightful to see Cape Hatteras Light on the front end paper. Lighthouses are significant in NC and used as a unit theme by many teachers. This book shows not only lighthouses from around the country but presents the history and function of lighthouses suitable for pre-school and primary grade children. The print is large and the illustrations are concise.

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