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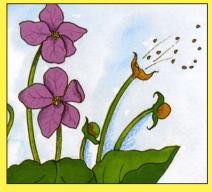




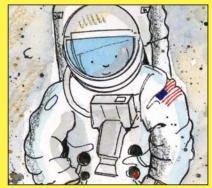






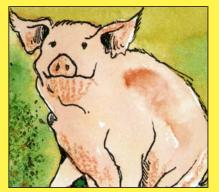


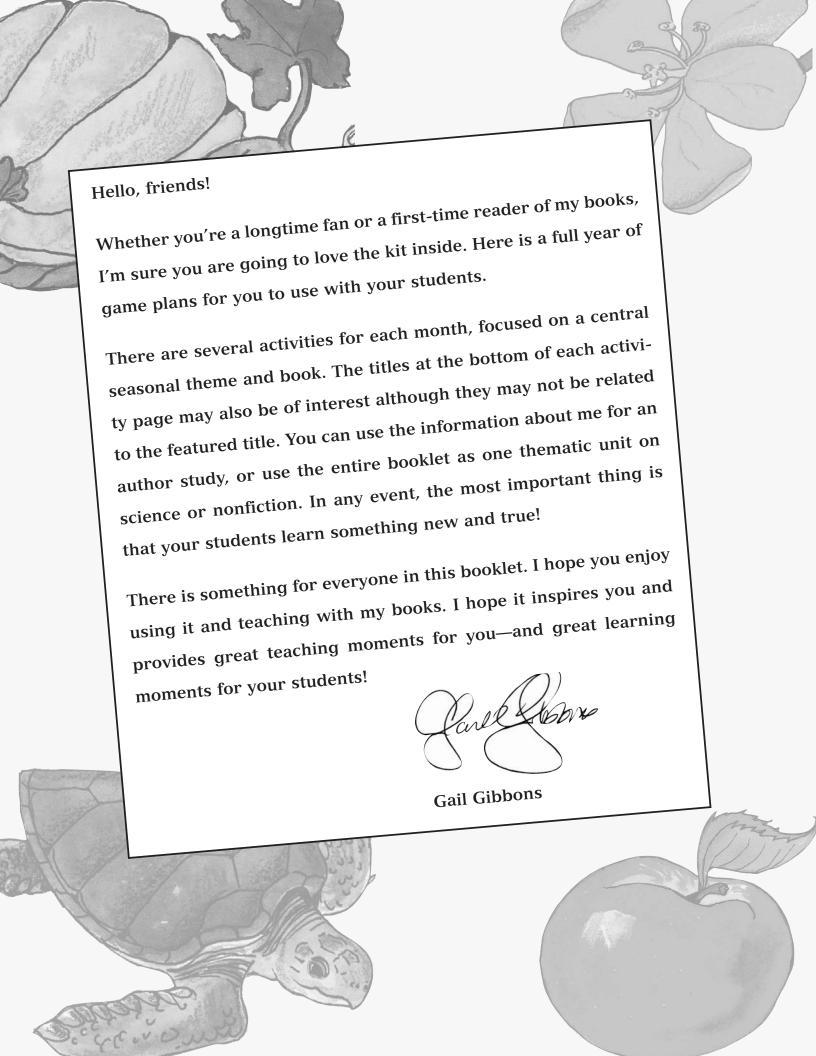
Activity Planning Guide













"To me, putting a nonfiction book together is like watching the pieces of a puzzle finally fitting. Bit by bit the book takes form.

"Even as a child I had an interest in writing and illustrating books. In fact, I put together my first book when I was four years old. It was only four pages long and was a wordless picture book.

"I love working with bright, bold, and beautiful colors. I also have a real love for nonfiction writing and am happy that my work lets me delve deeply into so many different kinds of topics. The research for any of my books takes a great deal of time and effort. I really enjoy learning about things and introducing them to children in words and pictures."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gail Gibbons grew up in a city writing stories and drawing pictures to fit the words, and wishing she lived in the country. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a bachelor of fine arts degree, she became involved in television graphics. This led her to work on a children's TV show, where her desire to write and illustrate children's books was rekindled. Eventually Gail became a full-time writer and moved to rural Vermont, where she could have a garden and as many pets as she wanted. Gail has written more than 140 books and has made countless visits to schools. The feedback she gets from children is invaluable and often inspires ideas for future projects. Gail and her husband, Kent Ancliffe, have a dog named Wilson and two cats, named Miles and Davis. They live in Vermont in a passive solar house that Gail's husband built, and on an island off the coast of Maine.

For more photos, stories, and information about Gail, visit www.gailgibbons.com.