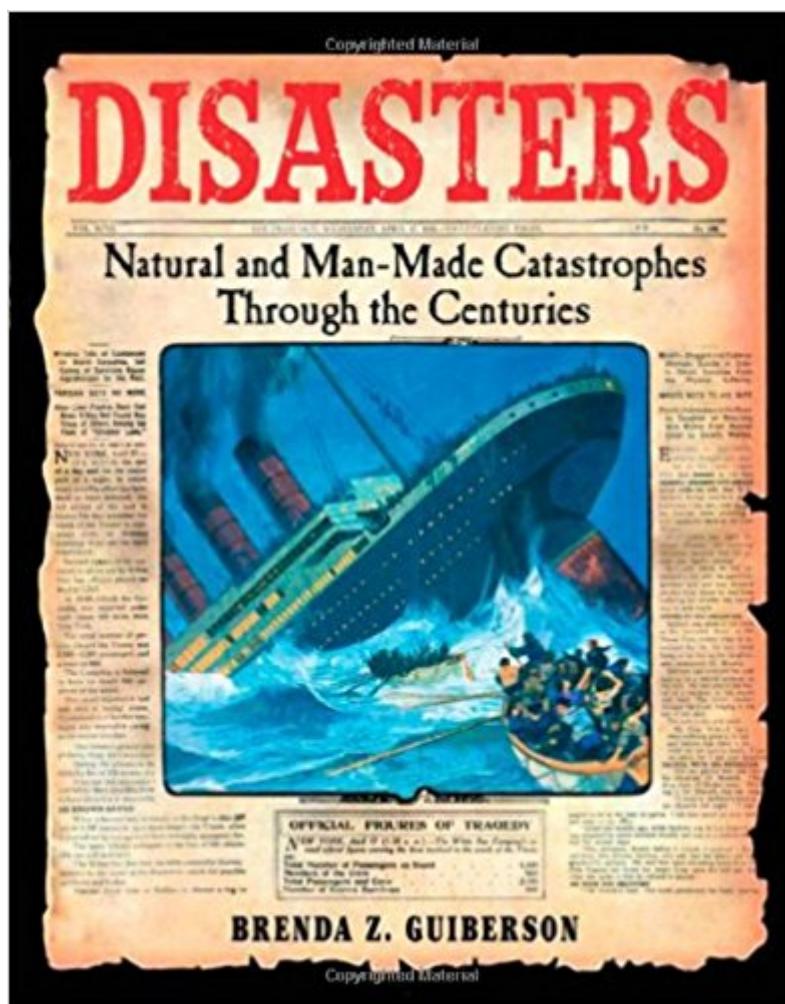


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# Disasters: Natural And Man-Made Catastrophes Through The Centuries



## Synopsis

Natural and man-made disasters have the power to destroy thousands of lives very quickly. Both as they unfold and in the aftermath, these forces of nature astonish the rest of the world with their incredible devastation and magnitude. In this collection of ten well-known catastrophes such as the great Chicago fire, the sinking of the Titanic, and hurricane Katrina, Brenda Guiberson explores the causes and effects, as well as the local and global reverberations of these calamitous events. Highlighted with photographs and drawings, each compelling account tells the story of destruction and devastation, and most especially, the power of mankind to persevere in the face of adversity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5â€œ9â€œ •The subtitle provides an accurate outline of the contents of this lively treatment of disasters from smallpox to Hurricane Katrina. In each chapter, Guiberson outlines the sources of the disaster, the results, and means of obviating the problems that caused these tragedies. For example, the chapter on the Great Chicago Fire begins with the construction of the city over unstable marshland. By 1871, Chicago rested on a foundation of wood: wooden sidewalks extended for miles, connecting to wooden bridges that linked sections of the city; even buildings were made of the same material. All of this, coupled with air spaces under the sidewalks and buildings that provided extra oxygen, created the potential for a conflagration given the right circumstances. The drought of 1871 presented those circumstances. This kind of exhaustive background serves to create an understanding of the contributory issues and demonstrates possible

preventive steps. Guiberson's compellingly written exegesis is equally good in the other nine chapters. Well-placed, black-and-white reproductions and photos extend the text. A perfect example of solid historical research coupled with engaging writing. © Ann Welton, Helen B. Stafford Elementary, Tacoma, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Taking on a theme with great dramatic appeal, each of the book's 10 chapters presents a notable disaster: outbreaks of smallpox in North America beginning in the 1600s, the Great Chicago Fire, the Johnstown Flood, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, the sinking of the Titanic, the 1918 flu pandemic, the 1930s Dust Bowl, the 2004 tsunami, and the drowning of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Guiberson's thorough research and clear presentation occasionally goes beyond the obvious facts to broaden the scope of discussion and her readers' horizons. The chapter on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire ends with a discussion of sweatshops in the world today and how to avoid buying clothing depending on their labor. The Johnstown Flood chapter discusses industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, a member of the private club whose faulty lake dam gave way and caused the disaster. Illustrations, mainly photos and drawings, appear throughout the book. Chapter-by-chapter notes and bibliographies are appended. Useful for research and often fascinating, this is a very readable presentation of historical disasters. Grades 5-8. --Carolyn Phelan

This book is required reading for ninth graders in our area. When it arrived, I looked at the first few pages and found the writing excellent for the target age group. The explanations of the origins, build up, contributing factors of each situation as well as the results are thorough without being overly technical or graphic. The impact of the losses, pain and suffering are clearly understandable. For a generation accustomed to the fast pace of technology overload and the side effect of impersonalization, hopefully, this book could provide a pinhole through desensitization of human suffering and make it real to the reader. The printing/compilation of the book is a problem. From page 119 to 147, the pages are out of order. They are there but you need to flip around to read the complete story

My family got tired of me saying, "did you know..." as I read this book. The author does a great job of dissecting disasters--how and why it happened, what we can learn from it. Kids will love it--it has everything a great non-fiction book should--well written, exciting, concise and makes you want more.

Very good book ÅfÂ Ä Å,Â à œÃ ÅjÅfÂ¢Ã ËœÃ ÂºÅfÂ Ä Å,Â à œÃ Â•qwerty qwerty hi hi hi hi hi hi hi hi hi him

Books was very boring without much real information.

From the Titanic disaster to Hurricane Katrina every unimaginable disaster, that occurred, could have been avoided. One can only hope we learn from our mistakes.

Fair read. Not scientific enough for the serious researcher. This text is a good reference point for leading the researcher towards more technical treatment(s) of the subject.

A++++

I just finished reading the book and it was great....I look forward to sharing the stories with my 4th grade students.

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