

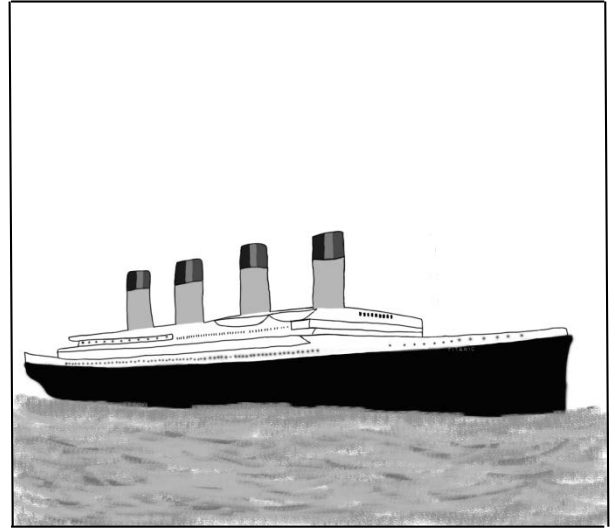
Friday 19th April, 1912

TITANIC DISASTER!

Last Tuesday, the White Star Line's luxury liner, Titanic, hit an iceberg and plunged into the icy depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

Four days into her **maiden voyage** from Southampton to New York, the luxury liner collided with an iceberg on the starboard side at approximately 11:40pm. The Titanic was widely believed to be unsinkable but with six watertight compartments **breached** in the collision, she was certainly going to **flounder**.

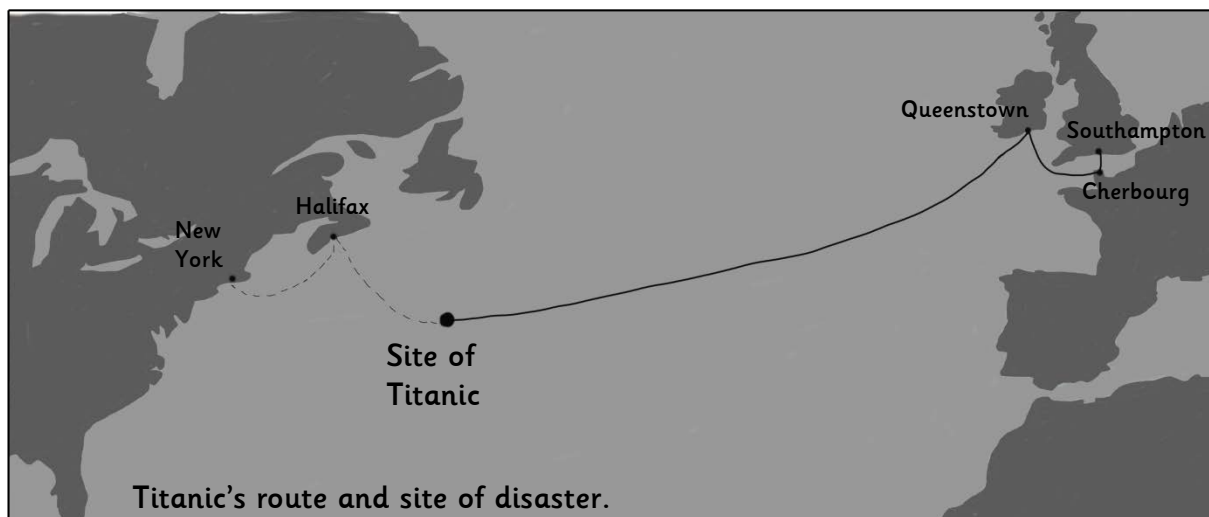
Survivors reported that it took an hour before the first lifeboats were **launched** with only a handful of people in them, including the Managing Director of the White Star Line, J Bruce Ismay. Unfortunately, the Titanic only carried 20 lifeboats (enough for less than half of the passengers and crew on board).



The Titanic leaving Southampton port.

It was originally planned that she would have 48 lifeboats on board, but that number was reduced to make the decks less cluttered. *"It hardly bears thinking about that if there had been **sufficient** boats that night, every soul aboard could have been saved,"* stated Arthur Rostron, Captain of the rescue vessel, Carpathia.

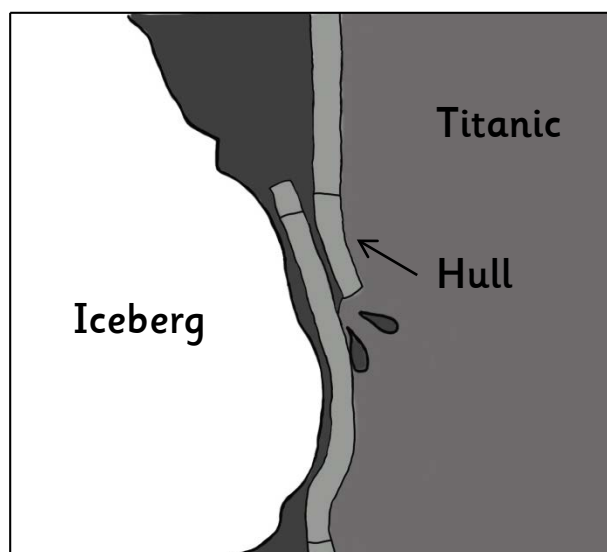
As the ship was rapidly sinking, some jumped overboard, some scrambled into lifeboats (mostly First Class passengers) and some decided to retire to bed instead of abandoning ship. Witnesses report that the band were still heard to be playing right until the final moment. It took just over two and a half hours for the Titanic to be completely **submerged**.



Whilst exact figures are unknown, it is estimated that approximately 1500 lives have been lost in the disaster, nearly two thirds of the souls on board. Sadly, most of the **victims** who entered the minus two degrees water, died in less than an hour. *“The sounds of people drowning are something that I cannot describe to you, and neither can anyone else. It’s the most dreadful sound and there is a terrible silence that follows it.”* (Eva Hart, Survivor) Among those who **perished** in the disaster were Titanic’s own designer Thomas Andrews, world renown businessmen Benjamin Gugenheim and John Jacob Astor. It is thought that Captain Edward Smith nobly chose to go down with his ship.

It took roughly three and a half hours for the nearest rescue **vessel**, the Carpathia, to reach the site of the disaster after receiving the distress call. They found only lifeboats and wreckage from the ship. The 706 survivors rescued by the Carpathia safely reached New York yesterday.

Families and friends of the victims have been arriving at the White Star Line offices in New York and London desperately seeking an explanation. There is growing cause for a public **enquiry** into why the seemingly ‘unsinkable’ Titanic claimed so many lives in what is being hailed as the biggest **maritime** disaster of all time.



Artist’s impression of damage to the ship’s hull.

Oral Teacher Questions – Titanic Disaster

Where was the Titanic travelling to? (AF2) **New York**

How many lifeboats were actually on the Titanic? (AF2) **20**

Why were there not enough lifeboats on board? (AF2/AF3) **She was thought to be unsinkable/they wanted to make the deck less cluttered.**

What adverb does the writer use to describe how the ship sank? (AF5) **Rapidly**

The author wrote that the passengers “scrambled” into the lifeboats. What image does that create of how they got into the lifeboats? (AF3/AF5) **An image of chaos, people frantically fighting to get into the lifeboats.**

Why do you think Captain Smith “chose to do down with his ship?” (AF3) **Perhaps he felt it was his duty/he felt responsible for the disaster.**

Who designed the Titanic? (AF2) **Thomas Andrews**

Which ship rescued the survivors? (AF2) **The Carpathia**

In the last paragraph, why has the author put the word ‘unsinkable’ in inverted commas? (AF5) **It clearly wasn’t unsinkable.**

Why is the text written in columns? (AF4) **It is a newspaper article.**

How much did this newspaper cost and why is this significant? (AF7) **It cost 2d which is how much a newspaper would have cost at the time the Titanic sank. They didn’t have the same money that we have today.**

Why are certain sentences in italics? (AF4/AF5) **They are quotations from people who have been interviewed or captions.**

How do you think you would have felt if you had family or friends on the Titanic and you read this article? (AF3/AF6) **Any sensible answer e.g. worried/concerned.**

Titanic Disaster – Follow-Up Work

Where was the Titanic travelling to? (AF2)

How many lifeboats were actually on the Titanic? (AF2)

Why were there not enough lifeboats on board? (AF2/AF3)

What adverb does the writer use to describe how the ship sank? (AF5)

The author wrote that the passengers “scrambled” into the lifeboats. What image does that create of how they got into the lifeboats? (AF3/AF5)

Why do you think Captain Smith “chose to do down with his ship?” (AF3)

Who designed the Titanic? (AF2)

Which ship rescued the survivors? (AF2)

In the last paragraph, why has the author put the word ‘unsinkable’ in inverted commas? (AF5)

Why is the text written in columns? (AF4)

How much did this newspaper cost and why is this significant? (AF7)

Why are certain sentences in italics? (AF4/5)

How do you think you would have felt if you had family or friends on the Titanic and you read this article? (AF3/AF6)

Titanic Disaster – Vocab 1

Write down the meanings of these words which were in purple in the text.

Use a dictionary or Thesaurus to help you.

maiden voyage _____

breached _____

flounder _____

launched _____

sufficient _____

submerged _____

victims _____

perished _____

vessel _____

enquiry _____

maritime _____

Titanic Disaster – Vocab 2

Rewrite these sentences, changing the underlined word with a suitable synonym (a word which has the same meaning). You may use more than one word if necessary.

We were excited to be travelling on the ship's maiden voyage.

The river breached its banks.

When the manager left, the company was left to flounder.

Why did it take so long for the first lifeboat to be launched?

The judge had sufficient proof to sentence the criminal.

In the recent floods, some cars have been submerged.

The victims of the crash were quickly transported to hospital.

Many soldiers perished in the Great War.

The vessel holds 2500 passengers and crew.

An enquiry has begun into the cause of the accident.

The Titanic is said to be the greatest maritime disaster of all time.

Titanic Disaster – Vocab 1

maiden voyage – a ship's first journey

breached – made a gap in, broken through

flounder – struggle, be in serious trouble

launched – set in motion, let a boat into the water

sufficient – enough

submerged – completely underwater

victims – people who are harmed/killed as the result of an accident

perished – died (in a violent or sudden way)

vessel – a ship or large boat

enquiry – an official investigation

maritime – connected with the sea

Titanic Disaster – SPAG

Read the following passage about the Titanic. Find the spelling mistakes and then rewrite the passage correctly.

The Titanic was a lucshury cruise ship witch is known for sinking and claiming thousands off lives. On 15th April 1912, Titanic struk an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean causing severe damidge to the ship. Within a couple of ours the ship had completely sunk. Sadly, there were not enuff lifeboats and so many people entered the freazing waters and froze to deaf.

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