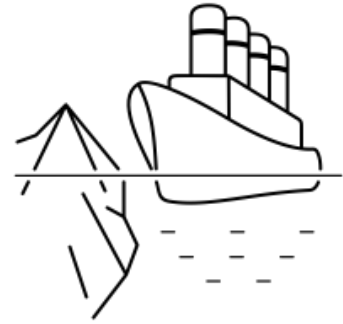


The Titanic



The sinking of the Titanic was a big news story in its day.

Titanic means "huge" and it was the largest ocean going ship of its day.

The Titanic set off on a trans-Atlantic voyage from England on April 10th, 1912. It was the most expensive and best equipped ship of its day.

The Titanic was almost 270 meters in length and 10 decks high. She was said to be unsinkable due to her construction.

It was its first trip and maiden voyage with many rich passengers on board.

The Titanic had in total, over 2,400 people on board.

She launched at Southampton, England and stopped in France and Ireland to pick up more passengers.

It was a luxury ship but there were many people in 2nd and 3rd class also.

It is thought that the Titanic hit a large iceberg causing it to take on water and sink.

Passengers panicked, there weren't enough lifeboats for all the passengers.

The Titanic was equipped with a Marconi telegraph and did send out a distress signal. However, it would be hours before the ship Carpathia would reach the Titanic.

It took many hours for the Titanic to sink into the icy North Atlantic waters.

The Titanic finally broke into two pieces and sunk to the bottom of the ocean.

People saved by lifeboats watched in horror. Over 1,500 people died.

The Titanic sank into the icy waters of the North Atlantic at exactly 2:20 am. on April 15th, 400 miles south of Newfoundland, Canada.

This woman remembers being on the Titanic when she was young. She was a lucky survivor.

The ruins of the Titanic were discovered on the ocean floor many decades later, in the 1980s. Here is how the wreckage looks after so many years.

Titanic was a huge hit movie in the 90s, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Recently, 5 people died in a submersible, a small submarine, while trying to see the sunken ruins of the Titanic.

It probably won't be the last we hear the Titanic in the news. It continues to fascinate us, even more than a century later.

Answer the questions.

1. When did the Titanic sail? When did the ship sink?

2. Did anyone survive? If so, how many people?

3. How did the Titanic sink (most likely)?

4. When was the wreckage of the Titanic finally found?

6. What happened recently related to the Titanic?

7. Why do you think people are still so fascinated by the sinking of the Titanic? Share your opinion and reasons why.

The Titanic

Vocabulary: Do you know these English words highlighted in the text?
Translate them into your own language or write an English synonym.

Instructions: Listen and answer the question.



What would have happened if only two of the sixteen water-tight compartments had been flooded?

The great ship, Titanic, sailed for New York from Southampton on April 10th, 1912. She was carrying 1,316 passengers and a crew of 891. Even by modern standards, the 46,000 ton Titanic was a colossal ship. At the time, however, she was not only the largest ship that had ever been built, but was regarded as **unsinkable**, for she had sixteen **watertight** compartments. Even if two of these were flooded, she would still be able to float.

The tragic sinking of this great **liner** will always be remembered, for she went down on her first voyage with heavy loss of life.

Four days after setting out, while the Titanic was sailing across the icy water of the North Atlantic, a huge **iceberg** was suddenly spotted by a lookout. After the alarm had been given, the great ship turned **sharply** to avoid a direct **collision**. The Titanic turned just in time, narrowly missing the immense wall of ice which rose over 100 feet out of the water beside her. Suddenly, there was a slight **trembling sound** from below, and the captain went down to see what had happened. The noise had been so faint that no one thought that the ship had been damaged.

Below, the captain realized to his horror that the Titanic was sinking rapidly, for five of her sixteen watertight compartments had already been **flooded!** The order to abandon ship was given and hundreds of people **plunged** into the icy water. As there were not enough **lifeboats** for everybody, 1,500 lives were lost.

***Titanic* Facts:**

The Ship

- **White Star Line** was the company that built the *Titanic*, and was owned by **J.P. Morgan**, an American tycoon.
- The cost to build the *RMS Titanic* was **\$7.5 million**
- **RMS** stands for **Royal Mail Steamer**.
- It took **3,000 men** two years to build the *Titanic*. Three million rivets held its massive hull together.
- The *Titanic* was never christened. It was not the practice of the White Star Line to hold such ceremonies.
- Price of a single first-class ticket was **\$4,700**. (equals **\$50,000** in today's economy)
- Although there were 4 funnels (smoke stacks), only 3 were operational. The 4th funnel was for looks.
- As the *Titanic* was leaving the port, the suction it caused actually snapped the ropes of a nearby docked ship. (The *S.S. New York*) Tugboats had to race to the scene to prevent the *New York* from colliding with the *Titanic*. Some people aboard the *Titanic* and on the dock felt this occurrence to be a bad omen.



The Iceberg

- There were 6 ice warnings received by *Titanic* on the day of the collision. They were all ignored by the wireless operator who was preoccupied with transmitting passenger messages.
- On the night of the collision, because the moon was not out, and the water was so still, it was very difficult to see the iceberg. A less calm water would have caused breakers around the iceberg making it easier to see it from afar.

- The iceberg that the *Titanic* struck was not a very big one. It did not even come up as high as the bridge of the ship.
- The iceberg that the *Titanic* struck was unusual in such a way that it was not white like most others, but more of a clear look caused by continuous melting. The clear surface in effect reflected the dark night sky and water like a mirror, thereby making it a black object, almost impossible to see from a certain distance. The term for this kind of iceberg is "blackberg", and is similar to the black ice found on cold icy roads.
- An iceberg exposes only 1/10th of it's mass above water. With the other 9/10ths of it's mass below water, It makes them impossible to budge. Even with a force of a ship like the *Titanic*.

Collision / Damage

- The *Titanic* was traveling 22.5 knots while cruising through iceberg laden waters. Just .5 knot from her maximum speed capability.
- The collision occurred at 11:40 P.M. on Sunday, April 14, 1912.
- Murdoch had ordered the engines reversed which had, ironically, sealed the *Titanic's* doom. Like all ships, the *Titanic* turned more quickly the greater her forward motion. Had the *Titanic* proceeded ahead and turned, it is most likely that she would have avoided hitting the iceberg all together.
- The gash that the iceberg cut into the hull of the *Titanic* was between 220 to 245 feet long. The total length of the ship was approximately 882 feet.
- Though the damage in the hull was 220 to 245 feet long, the most recent evidence shows that there was only a 12 square foot opening (the size of a refrigerator) in the hull allowing water inside the ship.
- The "watertight" compartments of the *Titanic's* hull were not actually watertight. They were open at the tops, which aided in her demise.
- The ship could have stayed afloat had only four compartments flooded... Five became flooded.

Survivors / Casualties

- ➔ **1,503 people total died, including passengers and crew.**
- ➔ **Only 705 people survived.**
- ➔ **962 lifeboat seats were required by law.**
- ➔ **1,178 lifeboat seats were carried aboard.**
- ➔ **2,208 lifeboat seats were needed.**
- ➔ **One of the first lifeboats to leave the *Titanic* carried only 28 people; it could have held 64 people.**
- ➔ **There were 472 lifeboat seats not used.**
- ➔ **There were enough life-jackets for all 2,208 people, and most everyone was wearing one.**
- ➔ **300 dead bodies were pulled from the sea the next morning. They were found floating in their life-jackets. Many other floating bodies were not found because they had drifted off.**
- ➔ **Very few people actually went down with the ship. Most died and drifted away in their life-jackets.**
- ➔ **The temperature of the Atlantic at the time of sinking was 31 degrees. This temperature was the biggest cause of death among the population.**
- ➔ **There were many dogs aboard the *Titanic*. Two of the dogs survived.**
- ➔ **Orders from the Captain were that, women and children were to board the lifeboats first. One man, Daniel Buckley, disguised himself as a woman to get aboard a lifeboat.**
- ➔ **Charles Joughin was the only person to survive the ice cold Atlantic water...He reportedly had been drinking heavily.**

➔ Of children fatalities, only 1 child from first class died, while 49 children from steerage died.

The Final Moments

➔ Passengers rode the stationary bicycles in the Gymnasium to pass time before the ship sank!

➔ The band played music up to the last few minutes before the ship went under. None survived.

➔ One of the last songs the band reportedly played before their death was, "Songe d'Automne".

➔ As the ship was sinking, the stern rose out of the water, and broke into two pieces between the third and fourth funnels.

***Titanic* Today**

➔ The *Titanic* lies 12,600 feet (over 2.33 miles) at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

➔ The two pieces of the *Titanic* lay 1,970 feet apart from one another on the ocean floor.

➔ Because the front section of the *Titanic* went down nose first, the bow is buried 60 feet below the ocean floor. The huge gash is also buried. (Recent technology has allowed visual access to the damaged area of the hull)

➔ The *Titanic* was rediscovered on July 14th, 1986. 74 years after it sank.

➔ Since the death of Millvina Dean, May 31st of 2009, there are no longer any living survivors of the *Titanic* tragedy. Millvina Dean was just nine weeks old at the time of the *Titanic's* sinking.

➔ April 14th, 2012 will be the 100th anniversary of the *Titanic's* sinking.

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