

## The *Titanic*



<b>Intended voyage</b>	From Southampton, England across the north Atlantic to New York City, USA (April 1912)
<b>Weather</b>	clear and calm, but cold
<b>Ship</b>	269m (882ft) long The hull was divided into 15 bulkheads (vertical partitions) so that if one or two bulkheads flooded, the ship would still float - leading to the claim that the ship was 'virtually unsinkable'.
<b>Passengers</b>	1,324 passengers (plus 898 crew) Many were emigrating to the United States. Divisions between 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> class passengers meant that lower class passengers couldn't make their way to the lifeboat deck.
<b>Collision</b>	scraped against an iceberg, making a number of long gashes in the hull, and flooding five of the bulkheads
<b>Emergency procedures</b>	neither crew nor passengers knew where to go or what to do
<b>Lifeboats</b>	20 lifeboats (not nearly enough) The crew lowered lifeboats into the water partly occupied.
<b>Rescue</b>	After several hours in the lifeboats in the cold ocean without food or fresh water, surviving passengers were finally rescued by the <i>Carpathia</i> , a nearby ship.

Adapted from *Shipwreck Surviving the Storm* by Caryn Jenner

### Match

a. The <i>Titanic</i> sailed from		into classes.
b. The weather was		Southampton.
c. The <i>Titanic</i> was believed to be		cold.
d. The passengers were divided		full.
e. The iceberg caused		unsinkable.
f. The crew was unfamiliar with		to be rescued.
g. The lowered lifeboats weren't		emergency procedures.
h. It took hours for passengers		long gashes in the hull.

## The Sinking of the Titanic



On 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1912, the *Titanic* set sail on its maiden (first) voyage from Southampton, England, bound for New York City. It was a large, luxurious ship and people said it was 'unsinkable'. The journey was expected to take one week.

The night of 14<sup>th</sup> April was clear and cold. The sea was calm. The *Titanic* was sailing at full-speed. At about 11:40 p.m., lookout Fredrick Fleet, who was keeping watch from high up in the crow's nest, spotted an iceberg ahead and rang the warning bell.

First Officer William Murdoch was in charge of the ship at the time. He told Quartermaster Robert Hichens to turn the ship's wheel, but the huge liner couldn't avoid the iceberg. The *Titanic* struck the iceberg on the starboard right side of the hull.

The collision only caused minor damage to the upper decks, but below the surface of the sea, the iceberg punched a series of gashes and holes along the hull, which started filling up with water. Just after midnight, Captain Edward Smith gave the order to abandon ship.



Within three hours, the *Titanic* sank. Sadly, more than 1,500 people died, due to a lack of safety procedures and a shortage of lifeboats on the 'unsinkable' *Titanic*.

1. When did the *Titanic* set sail?

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2. Copy THREE words which describe the *Titanic*.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

3. The *Titanic* struck an iceberg after \_\_\_\_\_ days.

4. Fill in the missing information

Who did what?

a.	was on the lookout
First Officer William Murdoch	b.
c.	turned the ship's wheel
Captain Edward Smith	d.

5. Describe the damage the *Titanic* suffered because of the iceberg.

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6. List TWO reasons why many passengers lost their lives.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

7. In the last line, the word '**unsinkable**' is within inverted commas.

Why does the author make use of inverted commas?

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8. If you go to the library, under which section would you expect to find this text? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

a. science fiction

b. horror

c. biography

d. history
