

The Titanic



The Titanic



The Titanic was a British passenger liner.
She was the largest ship of her time.
She carried over 2,000 passengers and crew.

She was on her first voyage from Southampton, UK
to New York City, US.

She never arrived in New York.

The Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on 15th April 1912
after hitting an iceberg.

Around 1,500 people died when the Titanic sank making it one of
the worst ocean disasters in modern history.



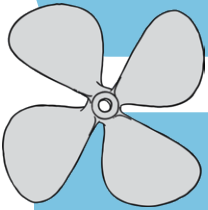
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Construction

The Titanic was built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast. Harland and Wolff were shipbuilders for the White Star Line. No expense was spared in the construction of the Titanic; it took 3 years to build and cost \$7.5 million.

Propellers

The Titanic had 3 propellers which were steam powered. The propellers powered the ship through the sea.



Boilers

There were 24 double ended boilers and 5 single ended boilers which were held in 6 boiler rooms. The boilers were up to 20 feet long.

Funnels

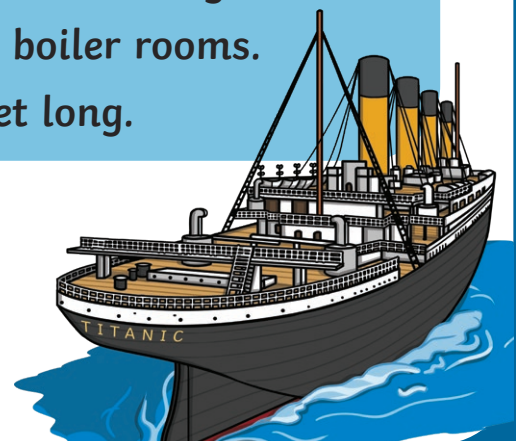
The Titanic had 4 funnels. Only 3 of these funnels worked; the other was to make the ship look more powerful.

Watertight Compartments

There were 24 double ended boilers and 5 single ended boilers which were held in 6 boiler rooms. The boilers were up to 20 feet long.



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Facilities

A model of the original grand staircase



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"TITANIC BOAT DECK 1" by Sammi is licensed under CC BY 2.0

The boat deck was the highest deck on the Titanic. It was called the boat deck as this is where life boats were stored. It was a large open space where first and second class passengers could stroll, rest on benches and play games.

There was also the boat deck and the bridge deck.

The Titanic's grand staircase was the Titanic's crowning glory. It was made from polished oak, wrought iron and glass. The centrepiece of the staircase contained a clock. Passengers would walk down the staircase to enter the first class dining room.

On the Titanic there were:

4 restaurants, a swimming pool, 2 barber shops, 2 libraries, 3 galleys, a gymnasium, a Turkish baths, a squash court, elevators and spiral staircases.



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First Class

Around 325 first class passengers were on board.

Around 202 of first class passengers survived.

The Titanic's first class passengers were rich and upper class.

There were also 350 smaller first class cabins.

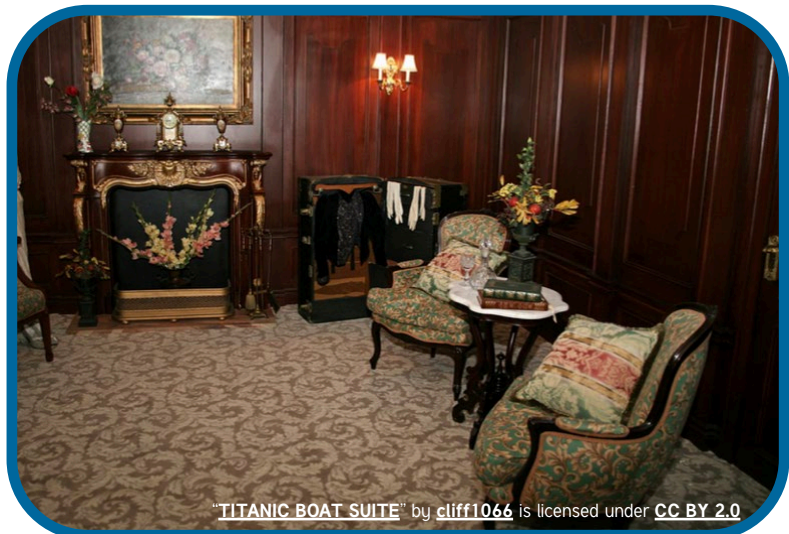
There were 39 private suites on the bridge deck
and 9 on the shelter deck.

The most expensive first class ticket cost £870
(around £300,000 in today's money).

First class passengers had access to all the boat's facilities.

First class passengers were accompanied by personal staff such as maids, nannies, chauffeurs and cooks.

First class on the Titanic was a whole new level of trans-Atlantic travel.



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Second Class

Around 285 second class passengers were on board.

Around 118 of second class passengers survived.

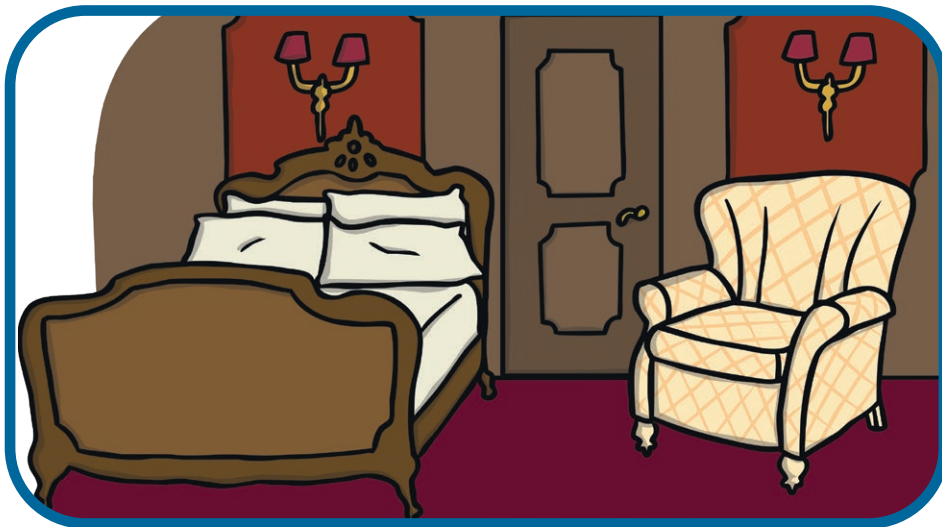
Second class accommodation was found over three decks.

Second class rooms were either two or four berth.

There was a second class dining room which could seat over 2,000 people.

Second class rooms had shared bathrooms.

Second class on the Titanic was the same as first class standard on any other ship at the time.



Third Class

Around 706 third class passengers were on board.

Around 178 of third class passengers survived.

Third class travel was much less luxurious than second class but was still luxurious compared to other ships at the time.

Third class passengers were called 'steerage passengers'.

Many third class passengers were emigrants travelling to the United States from Ireland and Scandinavia. There were 33 nationalities represented in the passenger lists.

The cheapest third class ticket was £3.

Third class passengers were not allowed to go to the first and second class areas of the ship.

There was a third class general meeting room and a smoking room.

The third class dining room could seat 470 passengers in each of 3 sittings.

Third class passengers slept on bunk beds in crowded cabins of 4 to 6 people.

There were 2 baths for the whole of the third class passengers!



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The Crew

Around 913 crew were on board.

Around 215 of the crew survived.

Crew included: the deck crew, engineering department, stewards and galley staff, restaurant staff, musicians and post staff.

The White Star Line intended that the crew and passengers should not meet at all during the voyage.

The engine room staff were housed at the front of the ship with 2 spiral staircases which connected their rooms to the boiler and engine rooms.



WHITE STAR TRIPLE-SCREW STEAMER "TITANIC" (45,000 TONS).
THE LARGEST VESSEL IN THE WORLD
FIRST VOYAGE FROM SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, 1912.



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Why did the Titanic sink?

There are many theories as to why the Titanic sank.

Thomas Andrew's fault

Thomas Andrew was the ship's architect. The compartments on the ship did not reach as high as they should have done as the White Star Line wanted maximum capacity for first class passengers. If Andrew's had insisted they should be the correct height, the Titanic might not have sunk.

Captain Lord's fault

Captain Lord was the Captain of another ship named the Californian. The Californian's radio was turned off at around 11.15. Sometime after, the crew saw rockets being fired into the sky from the Titanic. Captain Lord was informed but he concluded that the Titanic was having a party. The Californian did not help. If the Californian had turned on the radio, the distress message would have been heard and the Californian would have reached the Titanic in time to save the passengers.

The Shipbuilder's fault

The 3 million iron rivets holding the ship together were analysed after the disaster. The rivets were made of poor iron. When the ship hit the iceberg, the impact caused the rivets to break and sections of the ship to come apart. If good quality rivets were used, this may not have happened.



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Bruce Ismay's fault

Bruce Ismay was the managing director of the White Star Line. He was aboard the Titanic. White Star Line wanted to show that they could make a six day journey. To meet this schedule, the Titanic couldn't slow down.

It is believed Ismay put pressure on Captain Smith to maintain the ship's speed.

Captain Smith's fault

Captain Smith was the ship's captain. This voyage was his last as he was retiring. He ignored seven iceberg warnings from his crew and other ships. If he had slowed the Titanic down the disaster may not have happened.

Both Britain and America looked into the disaster.

American Inquiry

The American inquiry concluded that Captain Smith should have slowed down the speed of the boat in icy weather.

British Inquiry

The British inquiry concluded that keeping up speed in icy weather was common practice.

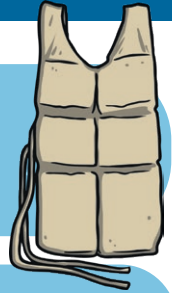
Both inquiries made recommendations:

- All ships should carry enough lifeboats for all passengers
- Ship radios should be manned 24 hours a day
- Regular life boat drills should be held
- Speed should be reduced in icy or foggy conditions

Lifeboats

One of the major reasons the Titanic disaster is so tragic is that lives were needlessly lost.

There were not enough lifeboats on board to hold all the passengers and crew.



When the lifeboats were launched, they were not full.

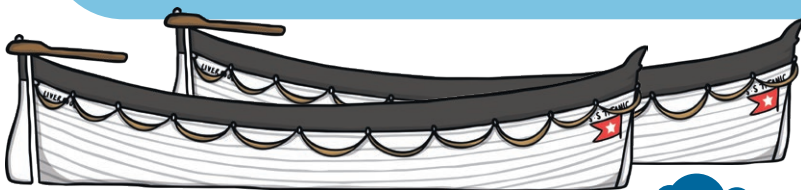
There were 20 lifeboats - enough for 1,178 people - but there were over 2,000 people on the ship.

Originally 32 lifeboats were supposed to be on the Titanic but it was reduced to 20 as the deck was felt to be too cluttered.

The Titanic also carried 3,500 lifebelts and 48 life rings but these were useless in the icy water.

Most people did not drown but froze to death.

Lots of people thought that the call to the lifeboats was a drill so stayed inside rather than going up to the freezing deck.



The Wreckage

The wreckage of the Titanic still lays on the ocean floor in the North Atlantic Ocean.

The Titanic wreck was discovered in 1985 by a French and American expedition.

It was discovered that the Titanic had actually split in half. The front and back of the ship were found nearly 2,000 feet apart.

Since then, there have been more dives and many artefacts from the Titanic have been found.

The Titanic's wreck is slowly deteriorating and is home to many sea creatures.

It is too deteriorated to raise the ship from the ocean floor so it continues to rust deep down in the sea.

