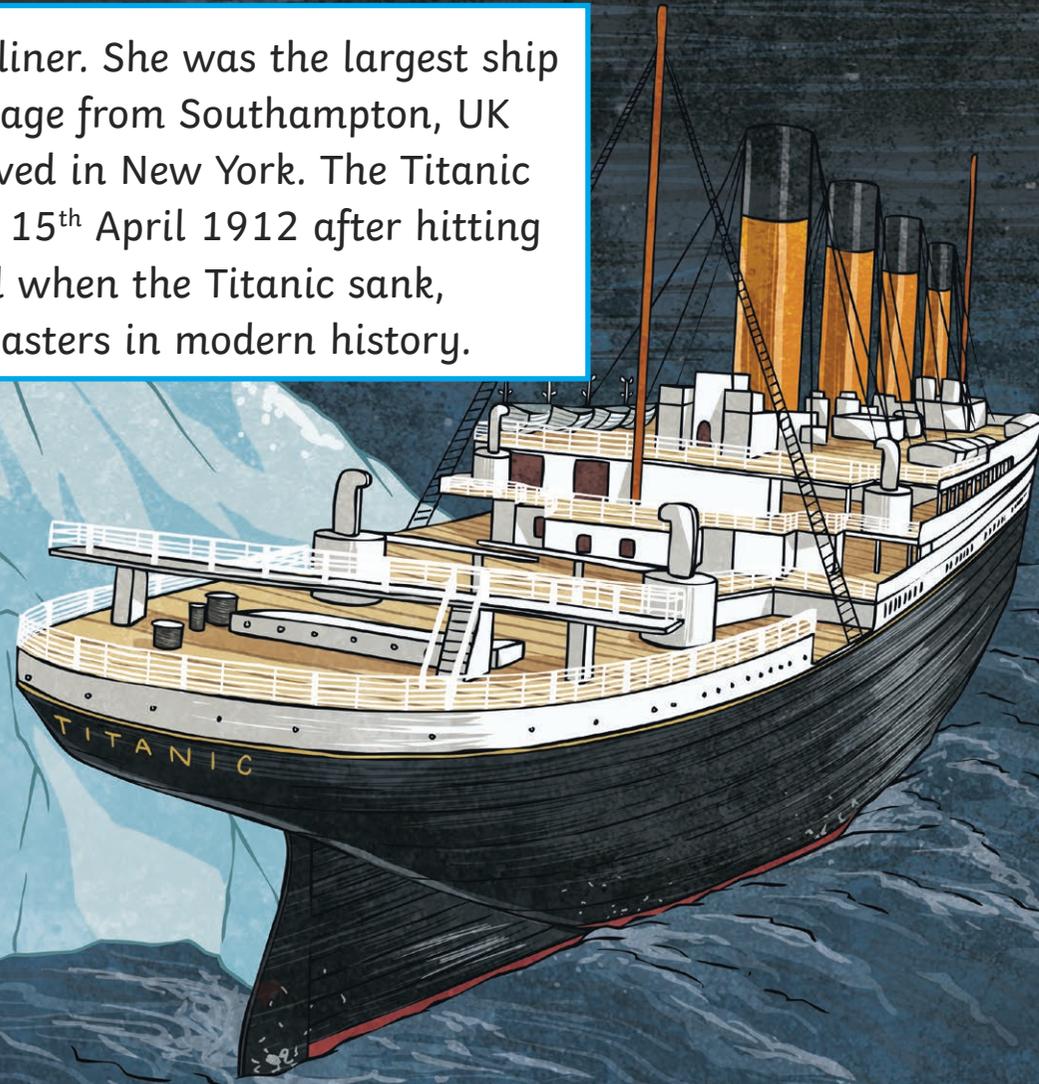


The Titanic Facts

The Titanic was a British passenger liner. She was the largest ship of her time. 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 1500 people died when the Titanic sank, making it one of the worst ocean disasters in modern history.



The Titanic Facts

Construction of the Titanic

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.

Watertight Compartments

The Titanic was constructed so that it had 16 watertight compartments. These compartments included steel doors that closed in less than 25 seconds if any water seeped in, to keep the ship and passengers safe.

The Titanic was able to stay afloat if any two compartments or the first four were flooded.

Funnels

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

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.



Titanic Facilities

The boat deck was the highest of the decks on the Titanic. It was called the boat deck as this is where lifeboats 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 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: four restaurants, a swimming pool, 2 barber shops, 2 libraries, 3 galleys, a gymnasium, a Turkish bath, a squash court, elevators and spiral staircases.

First Class

Around 325 first class passengers were on board.
Around 202 first class passengers survived.

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

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

There were 39 private suites on the bridge deck and 9 on the shelter deck. The suites included bathrooms, private toilets and had up to 5 different rooms.

There were also 350 smaller first class cabins. The most expensive first class ticket cost £870 (around £300 000 in today's money).



Second Class

Around 285 second class passengers were on board.
Around 118 second class passengers survived.

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

Second class accommodation was over 7 decks. There was a second class dining room which could accommodate over 2000 people. The room was very elegant and there was a piano to entertain diners.

Second class rooms were either two or four berth.

Second class rooms had shared bathrooms.



Third Class

Around 709 third class passengers were on board.
Around 174 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'.

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.

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!

There was a third class general meeting room and a smoking room. The dining room could seat 470 passengers in 3 sittings.



The Crew

Around 913 crew were on board.
Around 214 of the crew survived.

The crew included: the deck crew, engineering departments, 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.



Why did the Titanic sink?

There are many theories as to why the Titanic sank.

Captain Smith's fault

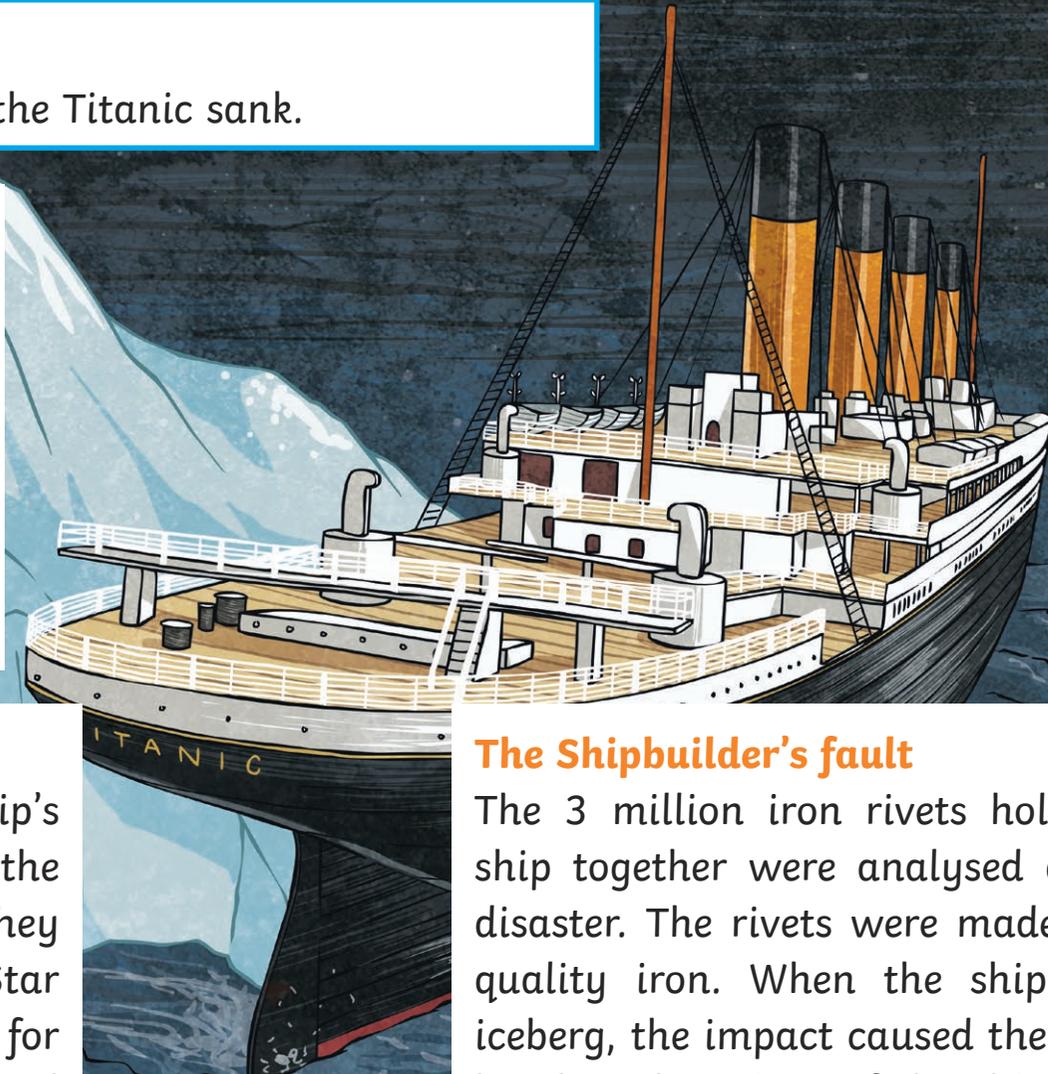
Captain Smith was the ship's captain. This voyage was his last as he was retiring. He ignored seven iceberg warnings from his crew and other ships. If he had slowed the Titanic down, the disaster may not have happened.

Thomas Andrews' fault

Thomas Andrews 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 Andrews had insisted they should be the correct height, the Titanic might not have sunk.

The Shipbuilder's fault

The 3 million iron rivets holding the ship together were analysed after the disaster. The rivets were made of poor quality 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 had been used, this may not have happened.



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.

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.

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:

agreed that Captain Lord Stanley of the Californian was at fault. If he had gone to the Titanic's assistance when the first rocket was fired, everyone would have been saved.

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.

The Titanic Facts

Lifeboats

The lack of life boats is one the major factors that made the Titanic disaster so memorable because 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. This was enough for 1178 people, but there were over 2000 people on the boat.

The Titanic also carried 3500 lifebelts and 48 life rings, but these were useless.

Most people did not drown but froze to death.

Originally, 32 lifeboats were supposed to be on the Titanic, but this was reduced as the deck was cluttered.

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 Titanic still lies 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 2000 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.

The ship has deteriorated too much for it to be raised from the ocean floor so continues to rust deep down in the sea to the freezing deck.