

Titanic Disaster – Comprehension

These questions are based upon the text Titanic Disaster on pages 14 to 15. Read the text and use this to help you answer the questions below.

1. What type of text is this? Circle the correct answer.

a newspaper
article

a biography

a story

a diary

2. On what date was the text written?

The text was written on _____ .

3. What happened to the Titanic?

It set sail and disappeared somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

It was repaired after it hit an iceberg.

It sank into the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

It sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.

4. Find and copy the words from the text that have the same meaning as the words below. All words can be found on page 13.

first journey – _____

broke through – _____

struggle – _____

under water – _____

enough – _____

5. Why was it a shock that the Titanic sank?

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6. What were the names of the ship and its captain who helped to rescue some on the passengers?

The captain was called _____.

The ship was called _____.

7. What could be heard as the ship was sinking?

8. Why do you think that Eva Hart described the sound of the people in the water as 'dreadful'?

To show how loud it was when the ship sank.

To show that she was upset about what was happening.

To help you to understand how terrible it was to be there.

9. How do you think the friends and family of the passengers on the Titanic felt when they heard the news of the sinking? Choose a word from the word bank below and explain your choice. You may choose more than one word.

worried

angry

upset

terrified

10. Underline the word in the sentence below that means '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.

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11. Number the events below in the order that they happened, according to the text.

The loved ones of passengers went to the White Star Lines office.

The Titanic left Southampton.

The Titanic sank into the Atlantic Ocean.

People began to jump into the water.

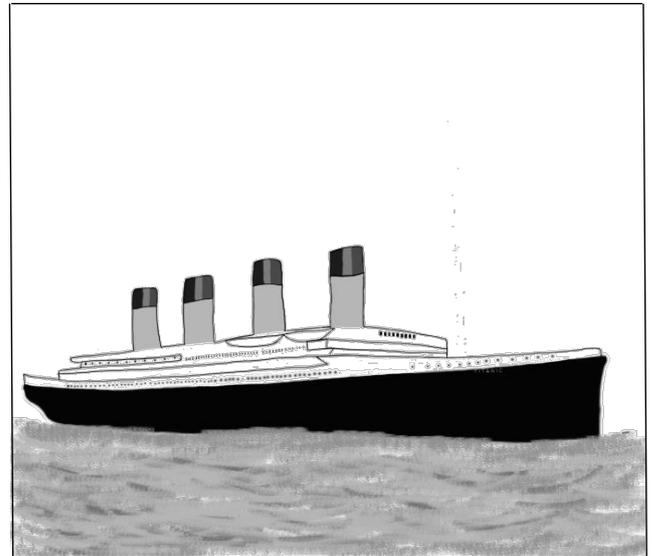
The Carpathia arrived in New York with 706 survivors.

The Titanic hit an iceberg.

Thomas Andrews designed the Titanic.

Friday 19th April, 1912

TITANIC DISASTER!



The Titanic leaving Southampton port.

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

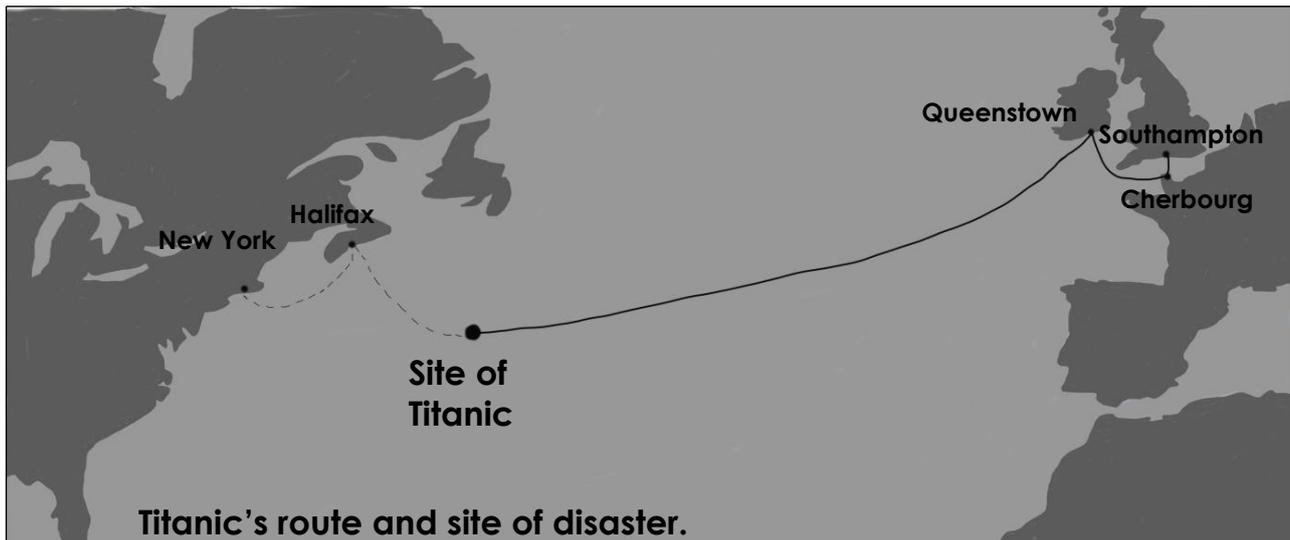
Four days into her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, the luxury liner collided with an iceberg on the starboard side at approximately 11:40pm. The Titanic was widely believed to be unsinkable but with six watertight compartments breached in the collision, she was certainly going to flounder.

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).

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.

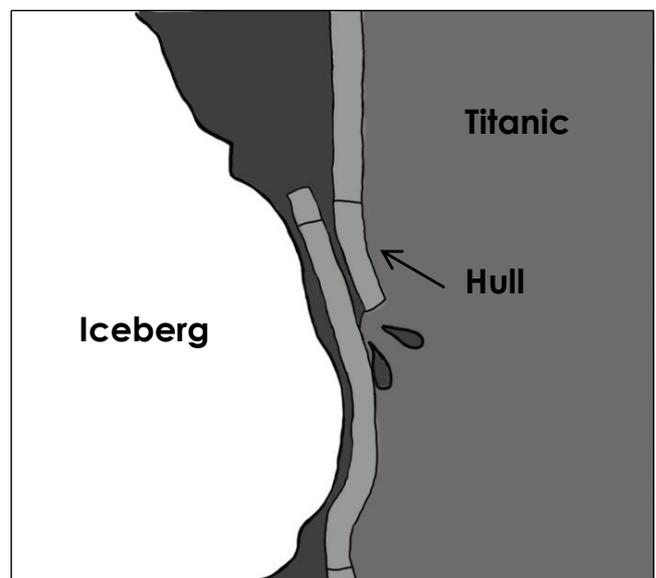
Guided Reading – Titanic Disaster



Whilst exact figures are unknown, it is estimated that approximately 1,500 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 renowned 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.