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THE TITANIC

The building of the Titanic began in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1909. By the time it was completed three years later, the majestic steam-powered ship was the largest passenger ship in the world. At nearly 270m long and able to carry 2,603 passengers with 944 crew, the Titanic used the most modern technology around and was the Airbus-A380 of her time.

It was thought that the giant ship was unsinkable.

The Titanic left Southampton, England on her first voyage on the 10th of April 1912, headed for New York City, via France and Ireland. There were 2,228 people on board as she steamed at full speed across the cold North Atlantic Sea.

There were all sorts of people on board, from millionaires, actors, writers and businessmen in First Class, to farmers, labourers, shoemakers, housekeepers and grooms in Third Class. Many of the people in Third Class were moving to America with their entire families to start a better life. There were 109 children aged 13 or under on the Titanic.

Very late on the night of the 14th of April 1912, the Titanic's Lookout saw an iceberg in the water ahead and sent an urgent signal to the ship's control room (called a bridge) to steer around it. But the ship was moving too fast to completely miss the iceberg. The iceberg scraped a dent 90 metres long in the side of the Titanic as it went past, popping many of the rivets holding the steel hull together.

The Titanic was designed with five compartments in the hull that could be sealed individually if water came in. The ship could have stayed afloat with four of the five compartments filled with water, but the length of the dent in the Titanic's side meant all five compartments were soon flooded.

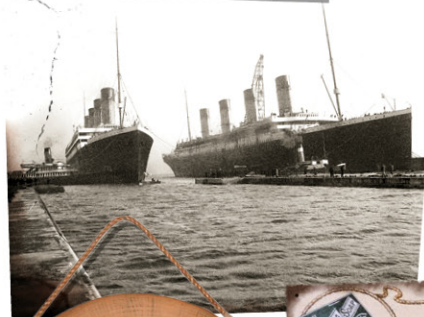
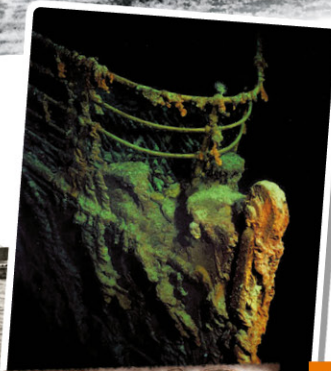
As the ship's crew realised how serious the situation was, people started to be loaded into life boats. Unfortunately there were not enough life boats for everyone, and some life boats were even rowed away from the sinking ship half-full. There was a "women and children first" policy, so many families were split up, with fathers and older male kids staying behind.

The sea was very calm, but the water was an icy cold 2 degrees. The people that did not make it onto the life boats either drowned or died very quickly of exposure to the cold (called "hypothermia"). The sea was so cold that even people pulled from the water and into the lifeboats died very quickly, apart from six. Out of the 2,228 passengers on board the Titanic that dark night.

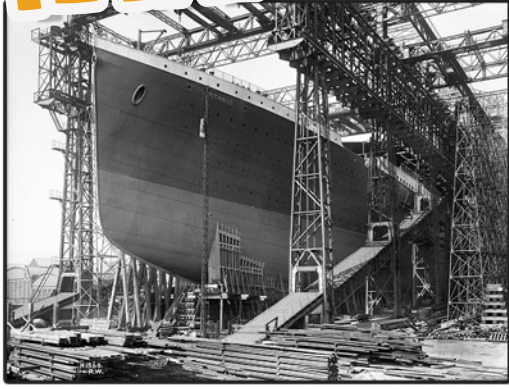
Only 705 survived.

In 1985 the wreck of the Titanic was found under nearly 4km of water. There have been many expeditions to film the wreck and about 6000 objects have now been retrieved, including the ship's whistle, steering wheel and engine parts, as well as crockery, wine bottles and a chandelier. There have also been lots of personal items belonging to the ships passengers, such as hairbrushes, jewellery, books, clothing and children's marbles.

There have been several movies made about the Titanic. The most well known is the 1997 film "Titanic", made by James Cameron and winner of a record eleven Academy Awards.



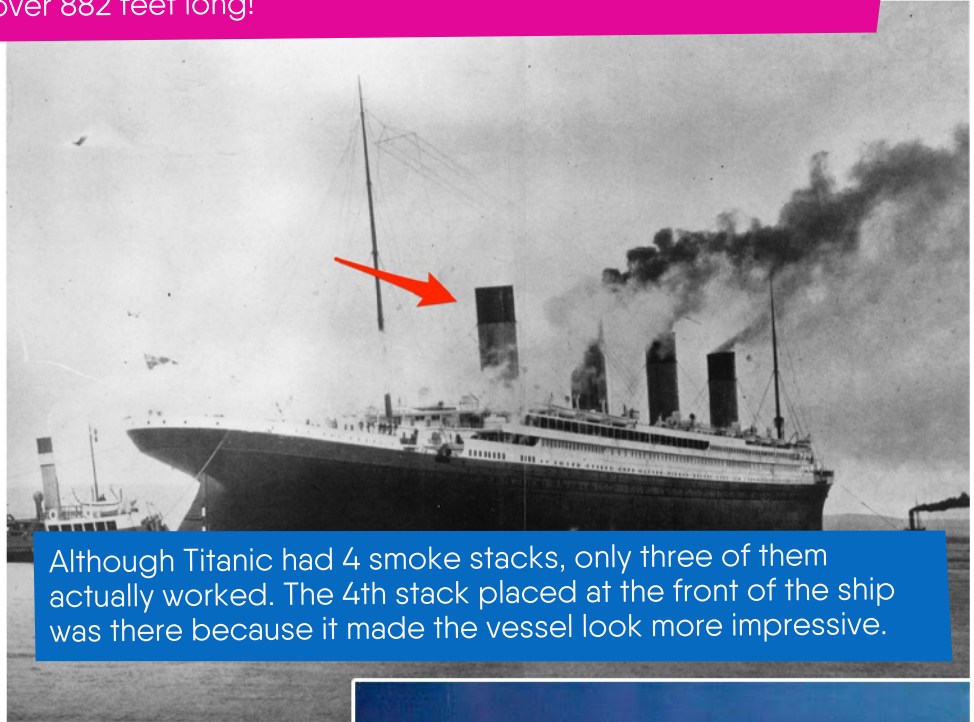
TITANIC FACTS:



The cost to build The Titanic didn't come cheap. The ship cost approximately \$7.5million dollars to construct and that was back 1911! It also took 3,000 shipbuilders to make the ship which was over 882 feet long!

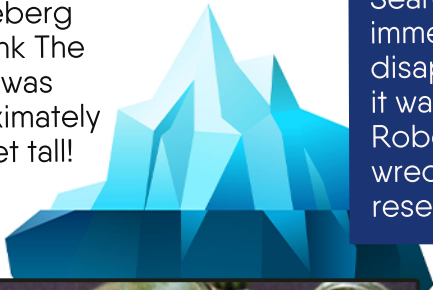


Out of 885 crew members only 23 were actually female. The rest were men!



Although Titanic had 4 smoke stacks, only three of them actually worked. The 4th stack placed at the front of the ship was there because it made the vessel look more impressive.

The iceberg that sank The Titanic was approximately 100 feet tall!



Search missions began almost immediately after the ship disappeared under water, but it wasn't found until 1985. Robert Ballard found the wreck while aboard a French research ship called Le Suroit.



The ship's binoculars were apparently locked inside a cabinet, but no one could find the keys because one ship officer accidentally forgot to hand it off. The ship's lookouts therefore had to rely on their eyesight alone — one of the many contributing factors believed to have caused the ship's demise.



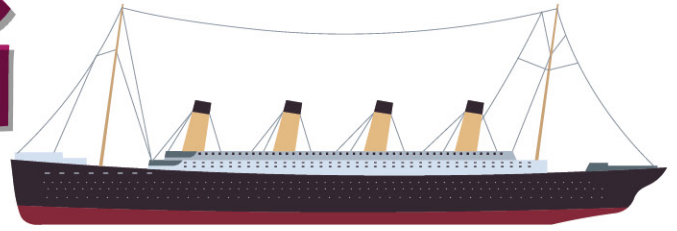
The chocolate mogul Milton S Hershey had a ticket n The Titanic, but had to switch to another ship that brought him into New York earlier for business meetings.



Around 6,000 artifacts have been recovered. They are on display at museums around the world and some have been sold at auction at high prices. In fact, the Just Kidding offices actually own a piece of coal from the original Titanic wreck!!

TITANIC WORD SEARCH

Can you find all of these Titanic terms?



ATLANTIC
BELFAST
COMPARTMENT
EXPEDITION
FLOOD
FRANCE
HULL
ICEBERG

IRELAND
LIFEBOAT
MAJESTIC
MOVIE
NEWYORK
OCEAN
PASSENGERS
SHIP

SINK
SOUTHAMPTON
STEAM
TITANIC
UNSINKABLE
WATER
WRECK