

What was the Titanic?

The RMS Titanic was a passenger steamship owned by the British shipping company White Star Line. RMS stands for Royal Mail Steamer. The ship was built in Belfast, Ireland and it cost approximately \$7.5 million to build.

On the ship's maiden voyage, the ship hit an iceberg and sank. An iceberg typically measures 1/10 of its mass above the water – meaning that even if it looks quite small from above the water, it is much larger underneath. On the night that the Titanic struck the iceberg, it was extremely dark and the water was very calm, making the iceberg difficult to see. The collision took place just before midnight on April 14th, 1912, and about two hours later, the ship sank. There were 2,223 people on board the Titanic when it sank, and 1,517 of them died that night. The reason there were so many deaths is that the Titanic did not have enough lifeboats on board for everyone to safely disembark. The majority of people would have died from hypothermia, in the ice-cold water. The water was 28 °F – people can only survive for about fifteen minutes in water this temperature.



When the ship sank, the people on board followed a woman-and-children first protocol – resulting in a disproportionate death of men. The ship had left from England and was destined for New York City.

The Titanic was considered “unsinkable,” and was extremely luxurious. The First-class section of the boat features a squash court, a swimming pool, expensive furniture and general opulence. The ship was considered very technologically advanced at the time, with elevators, electric lights, and other features. It would have been very expensive for one to travel on the Titanic – in fact, the most expensive fare was \$4350 (which, in today's dollars, is nearly \$100,000 US Dollars!).

The last living survivor of the Titanic was named Millvina Dean. She was only 9 weeks old when she was on the Titanic. She died on May 31, 2009 – the 98th anniversary of the launching of the ship's haul.

In 1997, a classic movie was made about the sinking of the Titanic. It starred Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslett. At the time, it was the most expensive film ever made.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What shipping company owned the Titanic?
 - a. Titanic, Inc.
 - b. White Star Line
 - c. RMS Co.
 - d. British Shipping Company, Ltd.

2. What country was the Titanic built in?
 - a. Canada
 - b. England
 - c. Ireland
 - d. Germany

3. The Titanic sank in the year:
 - a. 1902
 - b. 1912
 - c. 1922
 - d. 1932

4. As a result of the sinking ship, most people who died suffered from:
 - a. Hypothermia
 - b. Heart attacks
 - c. Inability to swim
 - d. Electrical shock.

5. What does RMS stand for?
 - a. Regal Military Steamboat
 - b. Royalty Marriage Starburst
 - c. Royal Mail Steamer
 - d. Rockefeller Mile Stone

6. In what year was the movie "Titanic" made?
 - a. 1997
 - b. 1979
 - c. 1999
 - d. 2007

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Why did so many men in particular die when the Titanic sank?
2. Where was the Titanic travelling to?
3. If there were 2,223 people on board the Titanic, and 1,517 of them died, then how many survivors were there?
4. How old was Millvina Dean when the Titanic sank?
5. What caused the Titanic to sink?
6. Who starred in the movie that was made about the Titanic in 1997?
7. At what time of day did the sinking take place?
8. How much of an iceberg's mass is underwater?
9. "The Titanic sank on April 14th," declares Susan. "No," says her brother, Carl. "It sank on April 15th." Explain who is correct.

ANSWER KEY:

Multiple Choice:

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. A

Short Answer:

1. More men died because they made sure the women and children were safe first.
2. New York City.
3. There were 706 survivors.
4. She was 9 weeks old.
5. It struck an iceberg.
6. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet starred in the movie.
7. Just after midnight.
8. 9/10s of an iceberg's mass is underwater.
9. While the Titanic struck the iceberg just before midnight on April 14th, it actually sunk on April 15th. Carl is correct.