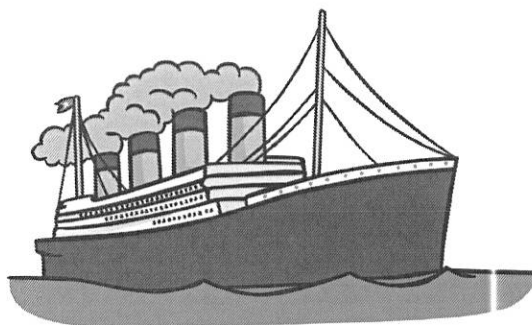


Titanic

Titanic was a British passenger liner and the largest ship of its time. It carried over 2000 passengers and crew. Its first voyage was from Southampton to New York, but tragically the ship never reached its destination.

Construction

Titanic was built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast. Harland and Wolff were shipbuilders for the White Star Line. No expense was spared in its construction. The ship took three years to build and cost \$7.5 million dollars.



This enormous vessel was constructed so that it had 16 watertight compartments. To keep the ship and passengers safe, these compartments included steel doors which closed in less than 25 seconds if any water seeped in. The Titanic could stay afloat if any two compartments, or the first four compartments, were flooded.

Titanic had four funnels. Only three of these funnels worked; the fourth was to make the ship look more powerful.

The ship also had three propellers, which were steam powered. The propellers powered the ship through the sea.

Facilities

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

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

On the Titanic, there were four restaurants, a pool, two barber shops, two libraries, three galleys, a gym, Turkish baths, a squash court, lifts and a spiral staircase!

First Class

Titanic's first class passengers were rich members of the upper class. The suites

included bathrooms, private toilets and had up to five 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) and all the rooms were lavishly decorated.

First class passengers had access to all facilities. They were also accompanied by personal staff, such as maids, nannies and cooks. First class on Titanic was a whole new level of transatlantic travel.

Second Class

There was a second class dining room, which could seat nearly 600 people. The room was very elegant and there was a piano to entertain diners.

Second class accommodation was found over seven decks. These rooms were either two or four berth and had shared bathrooms. Second class on Titanic was comparable to first class standard on any other ship at the time.

Third Class

Third class travel was much less luxurious, but it was better than that on other ships at the time. These passengers were called 'steerage passengers', and they were not allowed to go to the first and second class areas of the ship.

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.

These passengers slept on bunk beds in crowded cabins (four to six people in a cabin). Third class passenger could use just two of the bathrooms on the ship. That's two bathrooms for around 700 people!

The Crew

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

Tragedy

The Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on 15th April, 1912 after hitting an iceberg. It is believed that 202 of the 325 first class passengers survived; 118 of the 285 second class passengers were saved; and only 178 of the 706 third class passengers survived. In addition to this, only 215 of the 913 members of the crew were saved.

Questions

1. Where was Titanic sailing to?

2. How many years did it take to build?

3. What would it have meant for the Titanic if only two of the watertight compartments or the first four compartments had been flooded?

4. Where were the lifeboats kept?

5. Why do you think third class passengers were not allowed to go up to the first or second class areas of the ship?

6. Can you explain why a second class passenger would have been impressed with their facilities?

7. What was the problem with the lifeboats? Give a detailed response.

8. Which ticket class would you have preferred and why?

9. What or who do you think was to blame for the disaster? Explain your reasoning.