



1 What do you know about the *R.M.S. Titanic* and what happened to her on her maiden voyage?* Put together as many facts as you can in class, then add other facts from the information below.

(* In English, a ship is traditionally "she" and her maiden voyage is her first official trip.)

1st September 1985

Titanic's wreck found

After a two-month search in the North Atlantic, a French-American expedition has found and filmed the wreckage of the *Titanic*, which sank on her maiden voyage

after hitting an iceberg. The wreck is in two pieces and many of the things from the ship are all around it on the sea bed.

28th March 2012

TITANIC: KATE WINSLET AND JAMES CAMERON AT 3D PREMIERE

Kate Winslet and director James Cameron were at the premiere of a new, 3D version of *Titanic*.

The original 1997 film made Winslet and her co-star Leonardo DiCaprio world-famous.

NEWS

The moon sank the *Titanic*

They said that the *Titanic* was virtually unsinkable, but on 15th April 1912 she went down with the loss of 1,517 lives. Scientists at Texas State University now say that the moon may have played a role in the disaster. The ship hit an iceberg late on 14th April and slowly filled with water.

But why was the iceberg there? Astronomers say that three months earlier the moon had been unusually close to the earth. The very high tides caused ice to break free in the north. The icebergs drifted until they reached the part of the Atlantic where the *Titanic* sank.

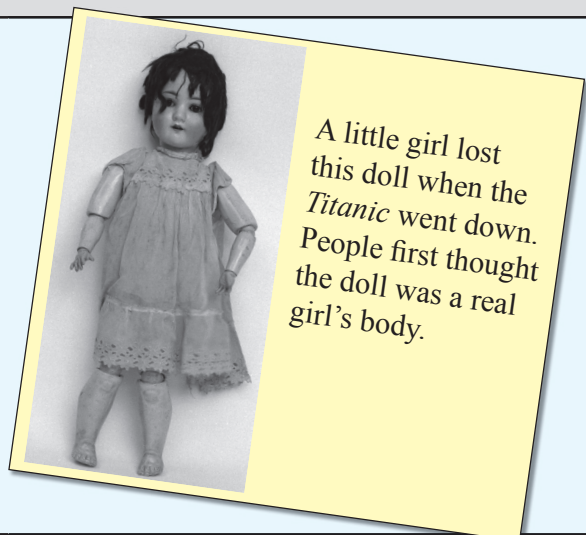
SALE

Titanic memorabilia

15th April 2012 New York

For example:

- Deck plan of first class staterooms
- Second class passenger list
- A large piece of carpet from first class stateroom
- First Class Lunch menu, R.M.S. *Titanic*, 14th April 1912



A little girl lost this doll when the *Titanic* went down. People first thought the doll was a real girl's body.

RMS Titanic

2 Some things to think about

- a) Why did so many people want to cross the Atlantic by sea? What kinds of transport could they use in 1912?
- b) Who was on the ship? There were first, second and third class passengers. Who else was on the ship?
- c) There were 2,224 people on the *Titanic* when she sailed from Southampton. More than 1500 of them died when the ship sank. Find out why the ship sank and why so many people died. Use an encyclopaedia or look online.
 ☞ <http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/> or
 ☞ <http://www.rmg.co.uk/blogs/collections/2012/03/08/titanic-remembered/> may help you.
- d) 200 of the 319 first class passengers survived (63%), but only 117 of the 269 second class passengers (43%) and 172 of the 699 passengers in third class (25%). Can you think of any reasons why the numbers were so different? You can find facts and figures on
 ☞ <http://www.titanicfacts.net/titanic-online.html>

3 What actually happened

Using the information you have gathered, match the information to the date and put the right letter in the box next to the date. The dates are already in the correct order.

1909-1911		A <i>Titanic</i> completed.
March 1912		B Last lifeboat left the <i>Titanic</i> . Over 1500 people were still on the ship.
12:00 10 th April 1912		C <i>Titanic</i> called at Queenstown, Ireland.
18:30 10 th April 1912		D <i>Titanic</i> built in Belfast shipyard.
11 th April 1912		E <i>Titanic</i> sailed from Southampton.
23:40 14 th April 1912		F The <i>Carpathia</i> arrived in New York with just over 700 people from the <i>Titanic</i> .
00:00 14 th /15 th April 1912		G People began to get into lifeboats. <i>R.M.S. Carpathia</i> , over 50 miles away, heard radio call for help and went towards the <i>Titanic</i> .
00:25 15 th April 1912		H <i>Titanic</i> picked up more passengers in Cherbourg, France.
02:05 15 th April 1912		I Lookout saw iceberg in front of the ship. <i>Titanic</i> hit the iceberg.
02:20 15 th April 1912		J The last part of the <i>Titanic</i> sank.
04:10 15 th April 1912		K Captain ordered radio call for help.
18 th April 1912		L The <i>Carpathia</i> picked up people from the first lifeboat.

4 Some things to discuss

- a) One of the big problems with the *Titanic* was that there were not enough lifeboats for all the people on the ship. You may have heard of other modern disasters with ships. What were the problems there? What should we learn from these disasters?
- b) Would you like to visit a museum of the *Titanic* disaster? Why (not)?
- c) What do you think about the sale of things from the *Titanic*?
- d) A new short drama series about the *Titanic* has been made for TV. Why do you think people are still interested in the *Titanic* 100 years after she sank?