

Would YOU have survived the TITANIC?

When the Titanic sank, more than two thirds of its passengers met a watery end. Would you have been one of the lucky survivors...?



On 15 April 1912, the Titanic slipped beneath the icy waters of the Atlantic

When the Titanic was launched, she was the biggest ship in the world. A vast ocean liner, she was built to carry passengers and cargo to and fro across the Atlantic.

Other ships may have been faster, but the Titanic's owners, White Star, claimed she was the biggest, the best, the most luxurious – and the safest ship of all time...

The ship of dreams

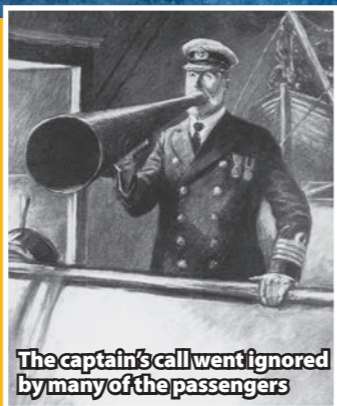
To make sure the Titanic didn't sink, her hull was made up of 16 separate sections. If two, or even three, sections got holes, the ship

would still have time to sail to safety. White Star were so sure the Titanic was unsinkable, they didn't put enough lifeboats on board. This would prove to be a BIG mistake...

All aboard!

On April 10, 1912, the Titanic set sail on her maiden voyage, from Southampton to New York.

At first, she made good progress, but just before midnight of day five, in the freezing-cold North Atlantic Ocean, an iceberg loomed out of the darkness. The Titanic was so big, she couldn't change direction



The captain's call went ignored by many of the passengers

quickly enough. She scraped along the iceberg's side, tearing holes in at least four sections of the hull!

To the boats!

Captain Edward John Smith and his crew knew that the Titanic would sink in just a few hours, and so they quickly tried to make ready the few lifeboats they had.

However many of the passengers were asleep, and most didn't believe that anything bad was happening. The ship was still afloat, and not tilting. And, after all, the Titanic was unsinkable, wasn't it?!

Into the icy ocean

The first few lifeboats were launched half-empty, wasting precious spaces. When the ship did start to go down, everyone rushed for the last lifeboats. But it's thought that only about 705 of the 2,200-plus on board made it to safety. Many jumped into the ocean to try to escape. But the water was a body-numbing 2°C, so most of those who went into the sea died from the cold, not from drowning!

Last survivor

The last survivor from the Titanic was Millvina Dean, who died 31 May 2009, aged 97. She was just a baby when she, her mother and two-year-old brother made it into one of the lifeboats - and so lived to tell the tragic tale.

Finding the wreck

In 1985, oceanographer (a sea scientist) Dr Robert Ballard (right) used the *Argo*, a robot submarine, to find the wreck of the Titanic lying on the seabed. Since then, lots of interesting items have been salvaged from the sunken ship, such as tickets, letters and priceless jewellery.



This photo shows the railing and bow of the Titanic seen through the murky sea water at the bottom of the Atlantic - the ship's final resting place

What WERE YOUR chances?

So, if you had been on board, would you have survived? It all depends on who you were...

YOU were a woman or child

Women and children were allowed to board the lifeboats first. However, some men did get a place when the first few lifeboats didn't fill up.

YOU were rich

First-class passengers were lucky – they had cabins on the upper decks, closest to the lifeboats. Many poorer passengers, in 'steerage' class on the lower decks, didn't reach the lifeboat deck in time.

YOU obeyed orders

If you had got into a lifeboat as soon as the crew told you to, you would probably have survived. Remember that, next time you're on a ship!

YOU were brave

Many people were too scared to leave the big ship for the tiny lifeboats. Others stayed on board because they didn't want to lose sight of their friends and family. To survive, you needed the courage to go for it.

YOU were willing to push!

In the final struggle for lifeboat places, those who pushed, won!

YOU had stamina

Some survivors were plucked from the icy water after hanging onto bits of floating wreckage for more than half an hour. They had hung on to life!

Did you know...?
The Titanic's on-board jazz musicians played cheery tunes on deck to keep people's spirits up, until the liner finally sank into the ocean

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