

HISTORY MYSTERY

TITANIC: THE 'UNSYNKABLE' SHIP



Take a look at the picture above: this rusted shipwreck is resting on the bottom of the ocean almost 4,000 meters below the surface. It is covered in barnacles and sand. It has many holes and pieces missing. Would you believe that this ruined artifact was once thought to be the greatest ship of all time? This is what is left of the RMS Titanic, a gigantic and expensive ship that was said to be “unsinkable”.

People watched from all over the world as the ship set sail for the first time on April 14th, 1912. Everyone, including the crew, passengers, and spectators was so excited to see this huge, beautiful ship sailing through the ocean. Many people saved all of their money to afford a ticket onboard.

Yet only one day later, on April 15th, 1912 the voyage ended in tragedy. The Titanic sank, and over 1000 of the passengers on board did not survive. Even today, people are fascinated by the Titanic tragedy.

But what caused the Titanic to sink? Was it merely an unavoidable accident? Or is there someone, or something, to blame for this infamous moment in history?

It is your job to read eye-witness accounts, examine photo evidence, and explore theories so that you can solve this HISTORY MYSTERY!

EVIDENCE C: NEWSPAPER AD FOR THE TITANIC



Image: an advertisement for the maiden (first) voyage of the Titanic.

Many people were so amazed by this ship that they rushed out to buy tickets, or saved up money to afford tickets on the "largest and safest" boat!

EVIDENCE D: TICKETS FOR THE TITANIC



Image: a replica (copy) of the tickets you would need to board the Titanic. Passengers could buy either First Class, Second Class, or Third Class tickets.

Look at the back of this sheet for ticket prices and the number of tickets sold.

	<i>TICKET PRICE (estimated modern day)</i>	<i># OF TICKETS SOLD (passengers)</i>
First Class	\$1,700-\$50,00	329
Second Class	\$700-\$2,000	285
Third Class	\$170-\$500	710

First Class was the most expensive, most opulent (fancy) option and was reserved for wealthy and powerful people. They had the most privileges on the boat.

One woman, Charlotte Drake, spent \$61,000 on her ticket for a luxury suite. She brought 14 trunks full of clothing, 4 suitcases of jewelry and shoes, and 3 crates of other personal belongings. She lost all of her belongings when the Titanic sank and tried to sue the company for almost \$4 million dollars.

EVIDENCE E: FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS



*Above: The First Class deck area. Some passengers had private decks.
Below: A photo of a First Class bedroom.*



•A typical first-class suite had at least 1 luxurious bedroom, a sitting room with a fireplace, and an area to wash and get dressed.

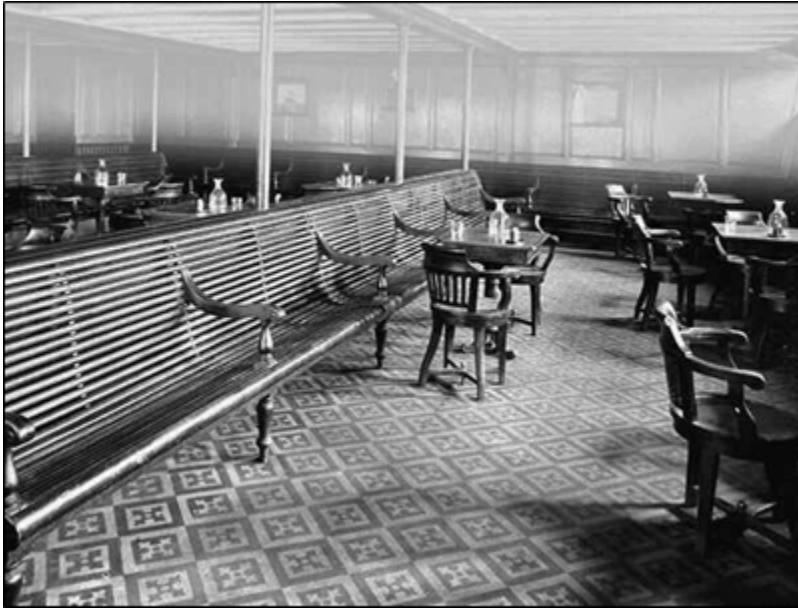
•First class passengers could go almost anywhere on the boat. Many areas were “First Class Only” (so no Second or Third class passengers were allowed).

•First class passengers often had many servants, waiters, maids, and more staff at their service all hours of the day.

•It was expected that women would wear 2-4 different expensive outfits EACH DAY on the Titanic! (one for sleeping, a ‘breakfast dress/day dress’, an outfit for lunch or entertainment, and a fancy gown and jewels for dinner).

•They ate expensive, multi-course meals that would often last for 5 hours or more! These meals included caviar, grilled meats, 2 soups and salads, lobster and seafood, fresh pastries, and cheese.

EVIDENCE F: THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS



*Above: The Third Class 'entertainment' area. People could gather here to dance and play cards.
Below: A photo of a Third Class bedroom. There are 6 bunk beds and 1 toilet in the room, plus a very small window.*



- *This class had the most passengers. Each Third Class cabin/room could have up to 10 people sleeping in it. They had small bunk-beds and usually 1 toilet in the room.*
- *Third class had only two bathtubs shared between more than 700 passengers!*
- *Third class was also called “steerage” because it was usually in the stern of the ship near the steering equipment. It could be very hot and loud!*
- *Passengers still ate 3 meals a day, but they were much less fancy foods (ex: oatmeal for breakfast, sandwiches for lunch)*
- *It was least expensive, but also the least comfortable.*
- *Third Class passengers were restricted to the lower levels of the ship.*