

Day 1

Today, traveling by boat is very uncommon for most people. Flying is a quicker and cheaper way to cross large bodies of water. In the early 1900s, this was not the case. If people wanted to visit somewhere overseas, their only option was to sail there. People were impressed by big ships that could travel across the ocean quickly. Companies wanted to be able to say their ship was the largest and the fastest. Ships that were innovative for the time often made the news. Newspaper articles would outline the features that made each ship unique. Companies competed with each other to build the most impressive ship.

1. What does innovative mean?

a. important

b. advanced

c. normal
2. What does outline mean?

a. plan

b. shape

c. explain
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about travel in the early 1900s?

a. Traveling long distances was usually very quick.

b. Traveling long distances took many days.

c. The majority of people that traveled were not rich.

Day 2

In 1909, construction began on a ship that would make history. The ship became famous even before it was built. It was going to be the largest and fastest ship in the world. It took a little over two years for the ship to be built. The people who worked on the ship were proud of the marvel that they helped create. It wasn't only known for being the biggest ship at the time. It was also known for the amenities that it offered, including a pool and a gym. There were many newspaper articles that discussed everything the ship had to offer. People quickly lined up to buy tickets for the ship's first trip across the Atlantic Ocean. That amazing ship was called the *RMS Titanic*.

1. What does marvel mean?

a. stare

b. wonder

c. obvious
2. What does amenities mean?

a. features

b. discomforts

c. requirements
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What was the main idea of today's passage?

a. The *RMS Titanic* had a lot of competition from other ships.

b. The *RMS Titanic* was a large and impressive ship.

c. Many people wanted to be able to travel on the *RMS Titanic*.
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Day 3

The *Titanic* wasn't just the largest and fastest ship of the time. The *Titanic* was also proclaimed to be unsinkable in many newspaper articles. There were many designs to make sure that the ship wouldn't sink. Chambers that could be sealed shut were supposed to help prevent the ship from sinking. People traveled on the *Titanic* for many reasons. Some were famous people who bought tickets so they could say they were on the maiden journey of the *Titanic*. Others were poorer and saved up their money to sail to the United States in hopes of a better life. On April 10, 1912, around 2200 people were on board the *Titanic* when it began its first journey.

1. What does proclaimed mean?

a. stated
b. guessed
c. supported
2. What does maiden mean?

a. first
b. important
c. attempt
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?

a. Many people did not believe that the *Titanic* was unsinkable.
b. People were impressed that the *Titanic* was advertised as unsinkable.
c. Most people were not impressed by the *Titanic*.

Day 4

The first few days on the *Titanic* were very peaceful. The ship set sail from England and was going to New York. The captain of the ship was in a hurry to make great time. As the days passed, there had been some warnings about icebergs in the water. These warnings were not that unusual. Icebergs didn't really seem to pose a true threat to ships as big as the *Titanic*. In recent years, one German ship had even collided with an iceberg and did not sink. The captain did not take the warnings seriously and did not slow down the ship. The *Titanic* sailed quickly through the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean despite the warnings.

1. What does pose mean?

a. represent
b. perform
c. model
2. What does collided mean?

a. created
b. missed
c. hit
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the main idea of today's passage?

a. The start of the *Titanic*'s first journey went well despite iceberg warnings.
b. There are not many icebergs in the Atlantic Ocean.
c. Safety was an important priority for the captain.

Day 5

Very late on the night of April 14, 1912, a lookout spotted an iceberg. The large iceberg was in the path of the *Titanic*. An official tried to stop the ship from hitting the iceberg by steering it away and turning the engines off. It was too late. Just before midnight, the ship made contact with the iceberg. The ship quickly began to take on water. It soon became clear that the claims that the *Titanic* was unsinkable were unfounded.

There was chaos on board when people realized that the ship was sinking. The people working on the ship were not prepared. They had not been trained for this type of emergency. Crew members weren't even sure how many people the lifeboats could hold. Many lifeboats were lowered before they were full. To add to this problem, there weren't enough lifeboats to begin with. There were only enough lifeboats for about half of the people who were on the *Titanic*.

Nearby ships had been alerted that the *Titanic* was in trouble. A ship arrived to help, but it arrived two hours after the *Titanic* was completely underwater. The people that made it into a lifeboat were rescued by that ship. They were then taken to New York. The world was shocked by the news of the *Titanic*. When the astonishment of the news wore off, many people began to ask questions. One question was about the number of lifeboats on board the *Titanic*. More people would have survived if there had been enough lifeboats on board. New laws were put into place because of the disaster. Now, many countries have laws that state there must be enough lifeboats for every person on board.

- 1. What does unfounded mean?
 - a. proven
 - b. believable
 - c. false
- 2. What does astonishment mean?
 - a. shock
 - b. alarm
 - c. offense
- 3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
- 4. Write a summary of today's passage.