

## **TEACHER'S GUIDE** **Grades 5 to 12**

### **The Titanic Sinks** **History Happened Here Series**

**Subject Areas:** Social Studies, World History

**Synopsis:** Archival photographs and dramatic reenactments show the Titanic's maiden voyage, which ended in tragedy on April 15, 1912. Focuses on Thomas Andrews, the ship's designer, who recognized the ocean liner's fatal flaw as he went down with the ship.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe the size of the Titanic and its lavish accommodations.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to recall the events of the sinking of the Titanic.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to explain the flaw in design of the Titanic's watertight compartments.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to discuss the devastation of the shipwreck, including the number of passengers lost.

#### **Vocabulary**

Titanic, frigid, maiden voyage, ocean liner, opulence, Turkish bath, hull, watertight doors, ominous, iceberg, mortal, flaw, compartments, lifeboats

#### **Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:**

- 1) On a map, trace the Titanic's planned voyage from Southampton to Cherbourg, France to Queenstown, Ireland to New York.
- 2) Explore students' previous knowledge of the Titanic. When did the Titanic sail? What was unique about the ship? Describe the accommodations.

#### **Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:**

- 1) Describe the Titanic on its maiden voyage. What did it look like? How big was it? What did people say about the Titanic? Why did people believe it to be "unsinkable"?
- 2) Thomas Andrews designed the Titanic to be unsinkable. What feature of the Titanic was designed to keep the ship from sinking? Why didn't it work?
- 3) How long did it take the Titanic to sink after hitting an iceberg? Why didn't nearby ships respond to the Titanic's distress rockets?
- 4) How many of the Titanic's passengers went down with the ship? Could more of the passengers have been saved? How?

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## **Additional Activities:**

- 1) Learn more about the Titanic, the collision and sinking, and expeditions to the wreck at <http://www.titanic-online.com/titanic/>.
- 2) Research the accommodations and activities of first, second and third class passengers on the Titanic.
- 3) Have students write personal narratives as survivors of the Titanic disaster. Encourage them to describe their reasons for traveling on the ship, their accommodations, their activities before the sinking, and how they survived.
- 4) Investigate the discovery of the Titanic in 1985. What technology was used to find the Titanic? Also learn about the recovery and conservation of artifacts from the site.

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