Titanic

The Titanic was a record-breaking huge ocean liner that was deemed ‘unsinkable’ by its manufacturers. It was produced in Belfast and tragically sunk in 1912 in the north Atlantic Ocean 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada following a collision with an iceberg.

Manufacturers

The Titanic was made by Belfast company Harland and Wolff. Thomas Andrews was the chief naval architect who designed the Titanic. He was killed in the sinking of the Titanic. The Titanic was the largest man-made ship ever to take to the seas. It was made about three years by around 15,000 workers. Eight workers were killed, and 28 serious accidents were recorded. Also, there were 218 minor accidents constructing the ship.

Size

The Titanic weighed a huge 52,310 tons (117,174,400 pounds). It was 269 meters (883’) long and 28.2 (92’) metres wide at its widest point. The ship was also 53.3 (175) metres from the funnels to the hull. The Titanic was funded by the International Mercantile Marine Company, which was owned by American J.P. Morgan. It cost £1.5 million pounds then, equivalent to £17,246,111,526 today.

Passengers

Around 1,500 of the 2,435 passengers lost their lives (not including crew members). As many were convinced that the ship was unsinkable, there was only lifeboat capacity for about one-third of the people on board. Of the 107 children on board the ship 50 were killed. One of them was from first class, with 49 children perishing in steerage. The policy for who got on the lifeboats was women and children first, so most survivors were women.

Interesting facts

* The Titanic’s engines were powered by pressurized steam from burning coal, burning around 600 tonnes of coal a day
* The Titanic had a crew of 885 people
* The fourth funnel was not in use and was merely for show
* All of the 20,000 bottles of beer on board,1,500 bottles of wine and 8,000 cigars, all were for the use of the first-class passengers
* Twenty horses were required to carry the main anchor
* Around 100,000 people turned up to see the ship’s launch
* 22 tons of soap and fat were smeared on the slipway to assist its unhindered passage into the River Lagan
* Just 23 of the ship’s 885 crew were women
* The last supper before the ship sank consisted of 11 courses
* The last remaining survivor of the Titanic, Millvina Dean, died on May 31,2009, at the age of 97. She was two months old at the time of the disaster.
* The iceberg that struck the Titanic came from Greenland
* There was only 37 seconds between the sighting of the iceberg and the collision.
* Musicians played music as the ship went down
* The bow of the ship penetrated 18 metres into the seabed
* Twenty-six of those on board the ship were couples on their honeymoon
* Two of the nine dogs on board were rescued from the Titanic
* Scientists estimate that the Titanic will have disappeared in 12 years
* The approximate height of the iceberg that hit the Titanic was around 50 feet
* Many lifeboats were sent out of the boat only partially full. Around 500 more people died because of this
* The musicians on board were expected to know a list of 352 songs.