

TITANIC

Titanic- it has many different names: the Ship of Dreams, the Unsinkable Ship, and the worst Maritime Disaster in all of history. Designed and manufactured by the White Star Line Company, this huge British luxury liner weighed approximately 46,000 gross tons.

Titanic set off on its maiden voyage, carrying more than 2,220 passengers, from the docks of Southampton in early April 1912. Titanic's voyage was called the voyage of discovery, but it turned out that this was its last voyage and also the last one for most of its passengers. Built originally with enough lifeboat capacity for everyone on the ship, the boat deck seemed too crowded so half of the lifeboats were taken off the ship.

While the great ship was speeding toward New York City, it struck an iceberg about 153km south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, only minutes before midnight on April 14, 1912. It was during this time that the most important ice warnings were ignored. Titanic was swallowed by the sea in less than three hours, and, even though there was enough room for half of the passengers in the lifeboats, the people panicked and loaded the boats themselves. They filled the boats much less than full because they were worried about being too crowded. The order was given for women and children to go first. All 5 children of 1st class were saved. All 24 children of 2nd class were saved. And only 23 children of the 76 in 3rd were saved, 60 % of these were lost. It was 2.20 am on the Monday morning when the ship actually went down.

In the end, 1,513 out of the 2,220 passengers perished in the freezing ocean water. Investigations into the happenings of that night are frustrating to say the least. Another ship, the Californian, was close enough to Titanic to rescue the passengers, but it did not respond to the Titanic's distress calls because its radio operator was off duty and asleep.

Titanic is now at the bottom of the sea, but the dreadful occurrences of April 14, 1912 live on in the minds and hearts of the survivors and the loved ones of those passengers who weren't as fortunate. These are the tragedies, and this is the disaster simply known as Titanic.

MY OPINION:

I don't know exactly why but I feel that the sinking of Titanic is one of the most catastrophic accidents which had happened until now. A lot of accidents happen every day and a lot of people die in it. Then why is the story of Titanic so well known? The ship was so enormous and magnificent that all had believed that it was indestructible. According to all this belief, leading people were very incautious. At the beginning they took off some lifeboats, then they ignored the most important ice warnings and rescuing of passengers was not optimal because of panic on board.

So the first reason why the story is so famous is that the people were shocked by the destruction of an indestructible ship. We realize that the bigness is not so important. The main reason why the ship sank and so many people died was the naivety of ship leaders.

According to all accidents nowadays in which die as many or even more people, we should be used to that kind of catastrophes. But the film industry has chosen this story and made it more famous. In my opinion, one of the important factors were also the main actors.

In the end I can only wish there will not be a lot of this kind of tragedies any more.

UNKNOWN WORDS:

- **maritime:** things relating to the sea and to ships; (**pomorski**)
- **luxury:** very great comfort; (**razkošje**)
- **gross:** smth. unacceptable or unpleasant that is very great in amount of degree (**bajen, bujen, ogromen**)
- **to set of:** start a journey; (**začeti potovanje**)
- **maiden voyage:** the first official journey with passengers; (**prvo uradno potovanje**)
- **dock:** an area for ships; (**ladjedelnica**)
- **crowded:** If a place is crowded it is full of people; (**nabito poln, natlačen**)
- **struck=strike:** hit; (**udarec**)
- **to load:** to put on; (**natovoriti, naložiti**)
- **perish:** to die, to freeze; (**umirati, zmrzniti**)
- **distress:** need, emergency; (**stiska, nevarnost, prošnja za pomoč**)
- **dreadful:** terrible, horrible; (**strašen, grozen**)
- **occurrences:** event; (**dogodek, pripetljaj**)
- **to sink:** to go down; (**toniti, potopiti se**)
- **drown:** sink; (**utoniti**)
- **to speed:** to hurry, to rush; (**drveti, pohiteti**)

