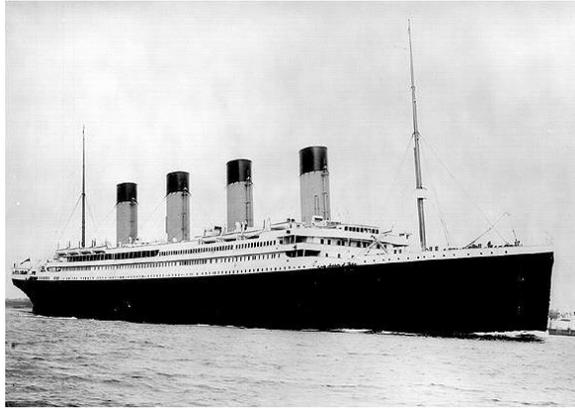


The 'Unsinkable' Titanic

The first SOS signal in history failed to save 1,513 men, women and children



The sea was as smooth as a millpond and the sky brilliant with stars when Frederick Fleet, the lookout in the crow's nest, spotted the towering grey mountain of ice.

'Iceberg right ahead,' he shouted down his telephone to the bridge. And so began two hours and 40 minutes of disbelief, fear, and finally horror for the 2,300 passengers of the White Star liner- the 'unsinkable' *Titanic*. For that was all the time that it took, from the moment the iceberg was sighted, for the biggest and supposedly safest liner in the world to sink beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

It was 11.40 p.m. on April 14, 1912, when the warning call came from the 'crow's nest. Immediately, the huge vessel swung to port -but not soon enough. The *Titanic* scraped along the jagged side of the iceberg. On the bridge, officers congratulated themselves on a near-miss. But below the water line, the Atlantic Ocean poured in through a 300-foot gash in the ship's plates.

Task – Read the following sentences and decide whether they are true or false

1. On the night the Titanic sank, the weather was stormy and the sea was rough.
2. The ship was carrying 2300 passengers.
3. The ship was sailing in the South Atlantic Ocean when it hit the iceberg.
4. Frederick Fleet in the crow's nest spotted the iceberg and signalled to the bridge of the ship.
5. The ship did not alter its course and sailed straight into the iceberg.
6. The ship took 2 hours and 40 minute to sink.
7. The collision with iceberg caused a 300-foot gash in the ship's plates.
8. The Titanic was thought to be "unsinkable"