

Historica Fair Project

Title: Little Iceberg Sinks Big Ship

Written By: Kati Omilgoitok
Grade 9
Inukshuk School
Iqaluit, Nunavut
April 2009



Written Summary

Describe your project:

In my project it explains how and why the Titanic sunk and if it had sunk in Canadian waters.

Resources: How did you find your information?

I found my information from a research book all about the Titanic. I also used the internet.

What did you find out as a result of your research?

In my project I found out that people never called the Titanic unsinkable. The first time it was called unsinkable was in the newspaper article a few days after it sunk.

Describe your personal interest in the project and why you chose it

I chose this topic for my project because it was a good movie but I wanted to know more details about it. I also wanted to know what the link between the Titanic and Canada was.

Danger in the Water - Canadian Icebergs

Icebergs are a common sight along Canada's eastern waters. People marvel at their beauty. The big chunks of ice which float down from the arctic seem harmless but they are very dangerous and have sunk many ships over the years. The part of the iceberg which stands out of the water is only a small piece of the whole. The deadly part of the ice is under the water. Sailors can't tell how big it is and how far they have to travel from it to be safe.

The Titanic

The most famous ship wreck was caused by an iceberg in Canadian waters. On April 14, 1912 while sailing about 400 miles south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland the *Titanic* hit an iceberg. Many things contributed to the huge loss of life including the desire to be desired to get publicity, lack of life boats, construction abilities of the time and lack of knowledge and respect for the icebergs in the area.

The *Titanic* was built in Belfast, Ireland for the White Star Line. It took three years to build. In 1912, when it was completed, the *Titanic* was the world's largest ship. It was 882 ft 9 in (264.6 m) long and 92 ft (28.0 m) wide. It was the tallest manmade object of its time.

On April 10, 1912 the *Titanic* left Southampton, England on its maiden voyage to New York City. It was said to be the fastest and most luxurious ship of its time and 2200 people were on board to enjoy the ride.

Trouble at Sea

The first three days there were no troubles with the ship maintaining a travelling speed of 23 knots. On the fourth day the *Titanic* started getting radio warnings from other ships in the area. The other ships were warning the *Titanic* to travel with caution because they were spotting many icebergs along Canada's Atlantic coast. The *Titanic* received five out of six warnings but chose to disregard them. In fact the *California* had stopped for the night and turned off the radio because they were worried about the icebergs.

How it sunk

On April 14, 1912 at 11:40pm the *Titanic* hit an iceberg. When the *Titanic* struck the iceberg 5 of the 16 watertight compartments were damaged. The ship started taking in water at the bow about 20 feet below the water line. As the water came in and started flooding different compartments the bow of the ship nosed down. The stern of the ship started coming out of the water. As the stern got high in the air the ship couldn't handle the stress and broke in 2 pieces. The bow started to sink. With the bow gone, the stern came back down almost level, rapidly flooded and rotated into a vertical position. It held that position for a couple minutes then sunk beneath the ocean. The stern sunk to the bottom hitting the mud. The hit was so forceful that it sunk 50 feet below the mud and crushed the hull.

Exploring the Wreck

Over the years there have been seven expeditions to explore the wreck of the *Titanic*. One group of university researchers who set out to explore the wreck were McCartney and Foecke. They analyzed the rivets which they recovered from the hull of the ship. They discovered that there were high levels of slag (a partially

vitreous by-product of smelting ore to purify metals). Slag, under pressure, can make iron very weak. This was significant. At the time the *Titanic* was built builders were making the transition from iron rivets to steel. Steel rivets were only used at the central hull, where they thought the most stress would be. The ship hit the iceberg where the rivets were the weakest. If the rivets were stronger the ship might have lasted long enough for another boat to rescue more of the people on board.

Too Many People, Not Enough Boats

The White Star Line only put life boats on board the *Titanic* in case they had to help rescue people from other boat wrecks. There weren't enough life boats for all the passengers on the *Titanic*; there were enough life jackets for every passenger. There were 20 boats all together. 2 out of the 20 were emergency life boats that could only hold 40 passengers. 14 of the boats were collapsible boats that could only hold 47 passengers. The rest of the boats were regular life boats that could hold 65 passengers. Only 19 of the life boats made it safely to the water. There were over 1500 passengers left on the *Titanic*. Even those who jumped off of the sinking ship didn't survive long in the -4 degrees Celsius ocean. Only 2 of the 19 life boats saved people from the water.

What did they do while the Titanic was sinking

When the captain found out the *Titanic* was sinking he knew they didn't have enough life boats for everyone. So he got every passenger to put on their life jackets. All the 1st and 2nd class passengers were asked to go to the deck, but because there weren't enough life boats they locked the 3rd class doors so they couldn't get to the deck. Half of the men in the boiler room were killed because they shut the doors. Up on deck a live band played cheerful music to try to keep the passengers calm. One of the most

famous stories from the sinking of the *Titanic* is that the band played until they died.

Who came to rescue the Titanic

While the *Titanic* was sinking there were distress signals and flares sent off. A ship nearby, the *California*, thought that these distress signals were fireworks from a celebration on board the ship. The crew on board the *California* had no idea that the great ship was sinking. Another ship nearby the *Carpathia* picked up the passengers that made it to the life boats. 705 people survived the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Fun Facts

Only 706 out of 2200 passengers survived. 199 1st class passengers survived, 119 2nd class passengers survived, 174 of the 3rd

Class passengers survived and 214 of the crew survived.

Approximately 3 000 000 rivets were used to make the *Titanic*.

Then there is the legend that the *Titanic* was “unsinkable.” The press, captivated by the ironical implications, has faithfully repeated the story through the years. Actually, the White Star ads never made such a claim about the *Titanic* or her sister ship *Olympic*. All promotion almost invariably used the simple slogan “largest and finest streamers in the world.”

There are 69 *Titanic* museums.

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