

MAN-MADE DISASTER: TITANIC SINKING

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The Titanic was a ship that set sail for New York in 1912. But on the 4th day, it sank. It is now one of the most famous shipwrecks in history.

THE EVENT:

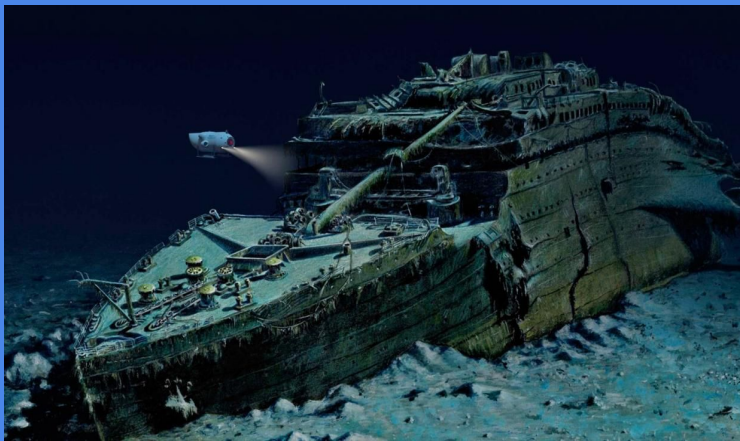
The Titanic was built in 1911 the ship was fitted with all the latest safety equipment, so at the time people thought the ship was unsinkable. The ship was built by Harland and Wolff who employed over 15,000 men to work on the Titanic. It took 2 years and 2 months to complete then finally it was time to set sail. The Titanic set sail for New York from Southampton on April 10, 1912, but sadly it never reached its destination.



The Titanic ship in Southampton harbor

SOCIAL ACTION - WHAT'S BEING DONE:

After the Titanic disaster, many precautions were put in place to prevent such a disaster from happening again. For example, the Titanic didn't have enough lifeboats. So after the disaster, there was a law put in place stating that every ship must have enough lifeboats for everyone on the ship. Many ship designs changed after the Titanic sinking. One thing that was changed in lots of designs was that the bulkheads (watertight walls) were extended higher so that there was less chance of water getting into the places where the people were. One of the reasons the Titanic sank was because it hit an iceberg. So after the disaster ship routes were changed so they went around the iceberg fields instead of going through them. There are also now ice patrols. Ice patrols are organizations that go out looking for icebergs. If they find an iceberg they would alert all nearby ships so they don't have a collision.



Part of The Titanic shipwreck

THE EFFECT:

The sinking of the Titanic is one disaster that should never be forgotten. Many lives were changed and many people were now mentally scarred from the trauma they had experienced. Many families lost loved ones. Altogether the Titanic was one of the worst disasters in history. 1,500 lives were lost and the few survivors were now scarred from what they had experienced. After the disaster, many survivors were interviewed. A common topic that came up in these interviews was that they will never forget the screams of people dying in the ice-cold water as they sailed away in the lifeboats. People didn't just lose their family, some people lost their pets. Nine dogs also lost their lives. The surviving three dogs (two Pomeranians and a Pekingese) only survived because of their size, as they were smaller than all the other dogs.

MY OPINION:

I think that the Titanic disaster should not be forgotten because so many people lost their lives. People lost family and friends just because of some stupid mistakes that were made. I think that the disaster could have been prevented if there was some more thought put into it. For example, after they hit the iceberg the crew didn't react fast enough. They didn't evacuate the people and told them there was nothing to panic about when really they needed to act quickly. When it was announced that the Titanic was going to sink the captain and crew were completely clueless as to what to do because there was never any emergency procedure. As everyone had thought that the Titanic was unsinkable there was never an evacuation plan practiced. So nobody knew what to do in the event of an emergency.

THE CAUSE:

The Titanic's sinking wasn't just caused by one thing, it was caused by a lot of different things which together formed a domino effect. This set the Titanic up for impending doom. But what could have caused such a horrific disaster? Well, there's the obvious one that the Titanic hit an iceberg which punctured a hole on the starboard or right-hand side and which allowed water to gush in at an alarming rate. This is what everyone thinks was the main cause. But did you know that leading up to the iceberg hitting the ship there were many other causes? Here are some of them. Everyone thought that the Titanic was unsinkable. So the number of lifeboats onboard was reduced from 32 to 20 so that the deck wasn't as cluttered. 20 lifeboats weren't enough for the 2,435 passengers and the approximately 900 crew members on board. When it was time to evacuate the ship the lifeboats weren't filled to the maximum so there were still seats left in the lifeboats. If you search up online what caused the Titanic to sink one of the things that will come up is about a fire. Before the Titanic set off on its maiden voyage there was said to be a fire which was situated on the right-hand side of the ship. Which is the same side that the iceberg hit? The fire weakened the metal so this made it easy for the iceberg to slice into the ship allowing water to spill in. Another thing that might come up if you search the cause up online is that there are people to blame two people to be exact. One of the two people was the captain of the Titanic Captain Edward Smith. He ignored all the iceberg warnings sent from the other ships such as the SS Californian. He continued to order that the ship was to travel at full speed even though he knew the ship was passing through an iceberg field. The other person that people blame is a man named David Blair. He was supposed to be one of the crew members on the Titanic but changed his mind last minute. As he left the ship on the day the Titanic was set to depart he forgot to give back the key to the cabinet which had the binoculars in it. This meant that on the voyage the Titanic's lookouts (Frederick Fleet and Reginald Lee) didn't have any binoculars. If they had binoculars they may have been able to spot the iceberg just in time to steer away avoiding a collision.

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