

Titanic Story 1

Today we are going to hear a story about a very, very big boat that nobody thought would ever sink ...but it did. It was its very first journey. This happened not yesterday, not last month, not a year ago, but over 90 years ago even before my Granny was born / was as young as you are.

The ship was enormous. It had 4 big funnels and was over 250 metres long! There were over 2,500 passengers on board. Most of them very rich. There were nearly 1000 men working on the ship. It was called the TITANIC and was built to be really special.

Every one was very excited about going on this first journey. The ship was going to America. It would take a very long time to get there but everyone was looking forward to it because it was such a lovely ship. It had everything you could want. It even had an orchestra - people who played musical instruments to the passengers because there was no television to watch. It also had the first swimming pool ever on a ship.

The voyage began on the 10 April 1912. There was a great crowd at Ocean Dock Southampton to wave them off. They had heard so much about this ship. Now they were actually watching it being pulled out of the harbour by tugs, on its first (maiden) voyage to America.

As the rich people on deck had a lovely time eating lovely food, down below, stokers hurled shovelfuls of coal on to the raging fires, to keep the engines churning away. The noise was deafening as the pistons hissed and crashed...

It is now four days into the journey

It was a cold fine night with stars glittering overhead as people strolled on deck. They didn't realise that this huge vessel was racing towards one of the greatest sea disasters ever known. Suddenly ahead loomed an iceberg. Before the liner could be swung away she crashed into it. The collision was a glancing blow. The Titanic brushed against the frozen monster, scraping about 300 feet off her port side.

As the ship tilted on its side, many people felt she was sure to sink.

As the end approached the orchestra played a hymn and people sang. Then came the last moments. The liner's stern rose higher in the air. On a still night came the sound of a roar as the engines crashed through the vessel.

At 2.40am, about 3 hours after the iceberg was hit she plunged deep into the Ocean.