**Loss of Life**

Hundreds of live were lost amongst the poorer [passengers](http://www.the-titanic.com/Passengers.aspx) on the ship, many of them sailing to the new world to find better and greater opportunities for themselves and their families. If the story of Titanic were produced as a work of fiction, peple would have difficulty believing that such a widespread tragedy could happen.  Within that rope of broader story there are threads of smaller stories which weave togeter to produce a fascinating tale.

The Titanic is one of the most fascinating and enduring storys of all time.  What is it which makes Titanic such a subject of fascination for so many around the world?

The RMS Titanic was a British registered four funnelled ocean liner built for the transatlantic passenger and mail service between Southampton and New York. Constructed at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland Titanic was, on her maiden voyage, the largest vessel afloat. On April 10th 1912 the Titanic sailed from Southampton with 2,200 passengers and crew, four days later the Titanic collided with an iceberg and sank. 1500 people died and 700 survived. This document attempts to tell their story and that of the great ship with which their fate would be inextricably linked.

**A Story of Tragedy**

There are stories of heroism, cowardice, loyalty, leadership and tragedy. There are many reasons why people are drawn to the [story of Titanic](http://www.the-titanic.com/Home.aspx) and want to find out more facts about how and why she was built, the [pioneering engineering,](http://www.the-titanic.com/Vision/Engineering.aspx) the intricacies of her journeys and the fatal eror which in hindsight seem so basic.

Some people will be interested in basic facts on [how Titanic was built](http://www.the-titanic.com/Vision/The-Build.aspx), some will be more concerned with the stories of people who sailed on her.

Iceberg Warnings

Titanic was well warn of iceberg activity in her path: a cargo boat steaming in the oposite direction radioed a warning as it passed the giant liner on evening, april 13th. Around lunchtime the next day, [Captain smith](http://www.the-titanic.com/Passengers/Crew/Captain-Edward-Smith.aspx) acknowledged a message from Baltic, a fellow White Star liner, relaying a warning of large quantities of field ice observed by a Greek steamer. There was a message early on sunday evening from Captain Lord of Californian, of the Leyland Line, to the Captain of Antillian locating three large bergs five miles south of the Leyland vessel. It were intercepted by Titanic before it was sent directly to the ship, which acknowledged it. However, a darker warning from Mesaba a couple of hours later, concerning heavy pack ice and many icebergs, was probably not delivered to a Titanic officers, and the mesage from Californian at 11.00pm reporting that she was stopped amidst ice was not relayed to the bridges of Titanic.

**Hitting the Iceberg**

Seconds too late, the two lookouts in Titanic’s crow’s-nest reported an iceberg dead ahead at 11.40pm. The liner swerved but too late to escape what seemed at first to be a close shave, then a glancing blow, and after [Thomas Andrews’](http://www.the-titanic.com/Building-the-Titanic/Design/Thomas-Andrews.aspx) expert inspection below, a serious collision whose effects he told Captain Smith would sink the ship within hours. the collision was heard and felt by pasengers and crew variously as a grinding jar, a heavy wave, a rolling over a thousand marbles and the tearing of a long strip of calico.

The iceberg slid past into the darkness and distance, but Titanic’s fate was already sealed.

**The Titanic Disaster Facts**

There were over 250 passenger telegrams sent and received during the voyage. Many of the lifeboats were launched less than half full. The Carpathia came to the rescue of the Titanic passengers in lifeboats. It was too late to save those left on the ship. On the 18th April the Carpathia arrived in New York and the Titanic survivors disembarked. There were 2,228 people on board. 1343 were passengers and 885 were crew members on the Titanic. The SS Nomadic carried some of Titanic’s richest passengers including John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim and Molly Brown, Dr Robert Ballard of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute found the wreck in September 1985. The Titanic lies approx. 12,460ft at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

RMS Titanic was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in the early morning of 15 April 1912 after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton, UK, to New York City, US.