

# Who sank the Titanic?

Was it the Captain?

The crew?

The ship designer?

Spot where RMS Titanic sank

North Atlantic Ocean  
41°43.35'N 49°56.8'W

15 April 1912

What would a historian say?

Ireland, United Kingdom, Southampton, Portugal

Collect a range of sources from the past to discover more about who did what

Here are 6 characters to research. Each of these characters played a part in the story of "who sank the Titanic?" Is one more responsible than the others?

- **The Captain:** gave an order to take a route that passed lots of icebergs.
- **The lookout:** didn't have binoculars, they were locked away.
- **The radio operator:** missed important iceberg warnings.



- **The ship designer:** designed bulkheads that were too low and let water in quickly when the iceberg hit.
- **The chairman of White Star liners:** wanted the Titanic to cross the Atlantic in a record time of 6 days.
- **The Californian ship's captain:** didn't answer Titanic's calls for help.

Investigate their stories and decide who, if anyone was responsible for the Titanic sinking.

# Why did the Titanic sink?

## Essential Experiences in Science

**Historic Insight: USS - History Topic Character Card**

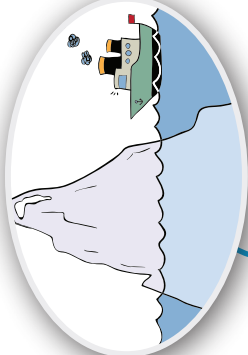
**Lookout Crewman Frederick Fleet**

- He did not see the iceberg.
- They were looking in the wrong direction.
- The iceberg was too close to the ship.
- The lookout was looking behind a log.

**Cambridge Character Cards**

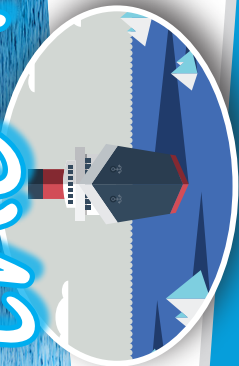
By drawing on historical evidence, we can construct character cards on some of the people who played a part in Titanic's story.

History can help us to find out what people saw and did – the human side of the story.



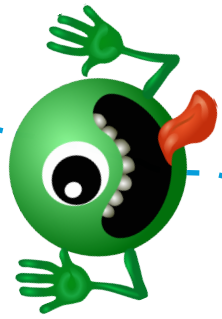
While crossing the Atlantic ocean the ship struck an iceberg and sank... Can history help us to discover why?

In April 1912, the Titanic was on her maiden voyage from Southampton in England to New York city in America.



Historians investigate the past by studying artefacts such as clothes and paintings. They also look for photos, diaries and reports by people at the time.

The Captain, The lookout, The radio operator, The ship designer, The chairman of White Star liners, The Californian ship's captain...



If you ask me, it was the ship's designer or then again, maybe the captain. What do you think?

The Titanic was designed to be 'unsinkable' but history tells us that the actions of the crew also played part in the disaster.



What do science and history tell us together? Can we ever be sure we have solved the mystery?

