

About RMS Titanic: A Very Special Ship: Worksheet

Even before she sailed, the White Star liner was world famous

Biggest? Most expensive? Fastest?

- ❖ With a length of 269 meters, *RMS Titanic* was the largest passenger ship in the world of its time. The biggest today is *The Harmony of Sea* (362 meters)
- ❖ It cost £7.5 million to build. (Around £400 million pounds at today's prices)
- ❖ *RMS Titanic* could accommodate 2,566 passengers. Only 1,317 sailed.
- ❖ There were 908 crew on board. 76% (696) would not survive.
- ❖ White Star marketed *RMS Titanic* as the 'largest and finest steamer in the world'.
- ❖ *RMS Titanic* was not an especially fast ship, even for her time.

Safety Features

Several films falsely suggest that White Star sold tickets with the claim that the Titanic was 'unsinkable'. However, new safety features were a big selling point in marketing the ship.

- ❖ There were 15 watertight bulkhead compartments, each with watertight doors
- ❖ The new Marconi radio system enabled fast (SOS) distress calls.
- ❖ Titanic had more than the legal minimum number of lifeboats.

There was also a widespread belief that bigger ships safer. Few were concerned about the lifeboat passenger ratio. In the public mind, *RMS Titanic* was unsinkable.

Fatal flaw in safety design

The most important design flaw was the height of the walls separating the bulkheads. These extended less than two metres above the water line. This meant that water could pour from one compartment into another if the ship pitched forward

True or False

1. Titanic is the largest ship ever built. *False - 'of its time'*
2. It cost seven and a half million pounds to build. *True (£7.5 million)*
3. The Harmony of the Sea was its sister ship *False*
4. 2,566 passengers sailed on *RMS Titanic*. *False*
5. There were just over 900 crew onboard.
6. *RMS Titanic* was the fastest large ship then sailing. *False*
7. White Line never mentioned safety when selling tickets. *False ('marketing')*
8. *RMS Titanic* could contact other ships by radio. *True*

Complete this table

Ship Length: <i>Titanic/Harmony of the Sea</i>	269m	362 meters
Building Cost/Today's Price	£7.5million	£400 million
Passengers capacity/passengers onboard	2,566	1,317
Number of crew/Crew survivors	908	212
Number of bulkheads/height of bulkheads	15	Under 2(two) metres