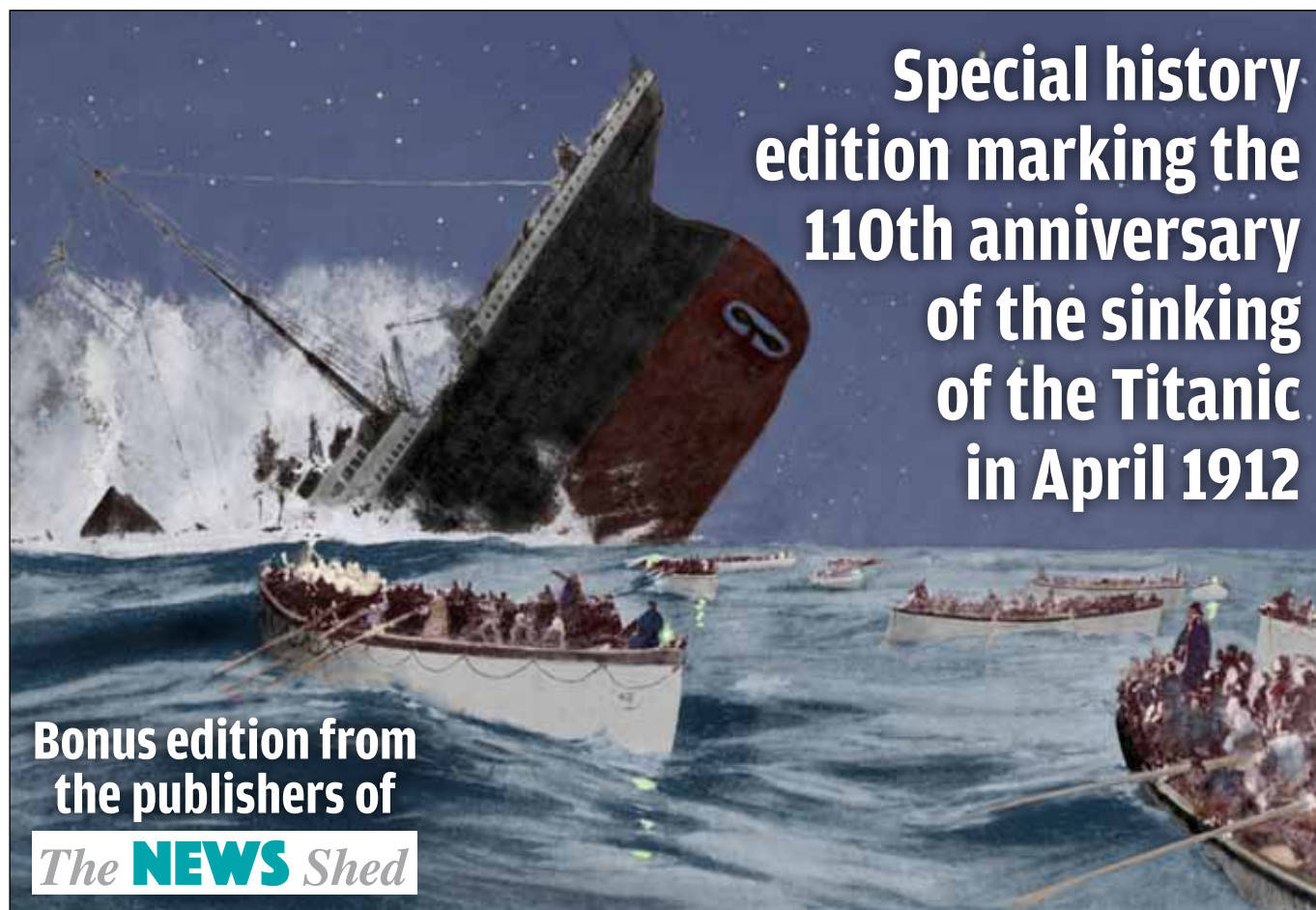


The **HISTORY** Shed

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**Special history
edition marking the
110th anniversary
of the sinking
of the Titanic
in April 1912**

**Bonus edition from
the publishers of**

*The **NEWS** Shed*

Disaster at sea

On April 15, 1912, the biggest and most luxurious ocean liner in the world hit an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the Atlantic.

Now, 110 years later, the Titanic remains the most famous shipwreck in maritime history and captures the fascination of people around the world.

The huge ship was said to be 'unsinkable', yet it was wrecked before it had completed its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

Urged on by the chairman of the shipping company the White Star Line, the ship's captain, Edward Smith, kept up a high speed as it steamed towards ice fields he knew were there. When the iceberg was spotted, it was too late to change direction.

Smith had said: "I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a ship to founder. I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to this vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that."

Of the 2,224 people on board, 1,514 died and 710 were saved. Smith was among those who perished, going down with his ship along with the Titanic's designer, Thomas Andrews.

It remains among the worst disasters in the history of peacetime shipping.

The story of the Titanic has been told over and over again in books, television series and films, and now has a visitor attraction dedicated to it at the Titanic Quarter in Belfast, created on the site of the Harland and Wolff shipyard where the Titanic itself was built.

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GLOSSARY

A quick guide to some nautical terminology and language:

Bow

The front of a ship.

Stern

The back of a ship.

Port

The nautical (and aircraft) term for the left-hand side.

Starboard

The right-hand side.

Aft

Towards the back, or behind. So the stern is aft of the bow.

Hull

The outer body of a ship.

Deck

As well as referring to the upper surface of a ship, it also has the same meaning as a storey in a building. So the engine room would be on a lower deck.

Bulkhead

An upright wall separating one section of a ship from another.

Bridge

A room, usually high up, from which a ship is controlled.

Davit

A structure projecting over the side of a ship, incorporating a crane, from which lifeboats or other items can be lifted or lowered.

THE SHIP



As nearly perfect as human brains can make her...

- What Titanic designer Thomas Andrews said about the ship

The Titanic was designed and built to be the biggest and most luxurious ship in the world.

It was the second of three Olympic-class ocean liners built for the White Star Line, and at 52,310 tons and 882ft (269m) long it was slightly heavier than sister ship Olympic and about the same size as the eventual third ship in the class, Britannic.

Although far fewer actually made the voyage, she could accommodate 2,453 passengers – 833 in first class, 614 in second class and 1,006 in third class – and had a crew of around 900.

While its size was impressive, the thing which really stood out about the Titanic was its amazing luxury.

The ship was fitted out in a style similar to the Ritz Hotel in London, and one of the lounges for first-class passengers was decorated in the style of the Palace of Versailles, a grand royal residence near Paris.

Among the facilities were a swimming pool, gymnasium, squash court and Turkish bath, along with restaurants serving food from some of the world's leading chefs.

The Titanic was designed by naval architect Thomas Andrews, who was on board for the voyage, and on the very day it hit the iceberg he told a friend the ship was "as nearly perfect as human brains can make her".

Andrews died in the disaster.

The NEWS Shed

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■ It is among a whole host of educational resources at: www.literacysheplus.com

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TITANIC TIMELINE

■ **1907:** Bruce Ismay, chairman of the White Star Line, and JP Morgan of the company's owner, International Mercantile Marine, decide to build three huge luxury liners to compete with rivals Cunard.

■ **March 1909:** Work begins on building the Titanic at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

■ **May 31, 1911:** Titanic is launched into the River Lagan and towed to a berth where the interior fittings are added over the following year.

■ **April 2, 1912:** Successful sea trials are carried out.

■ **April 10, 1912:** Titanic leaves Southampton at noon to begin its voyage, and collects more passengers from the French port of Cherbourg later that day.

■ **April 11, 1912:** The ship makes its final stop to collect passengers at the Irish port of Queenstown (now Cobh).

■ **April 14, 1912:** At 11.40pm, Titanic strikes an iceberg 375 miles (600km) south of Newfoundland and water rushes in through the damaged hull.

■ **April 15, 1912:** Between 2.10am and 2.15am, the ship starts to tilt more dramatically before sinking at 2.20am.

THE SINKING



The final, fatal night

Iceberg, right ahead!" That was how lookout Frederick Fleet alerted the bridge of the Titanic from his place in the crow's nest. It was too late.

Although radio messages from six other ships had warned of icebergs in the area, the Titanic had not slowed down.

First Officer William Murdoch, who was in charge on the bridge at the time, ordered for engines to be reversed and for the ship to be steered around the obstacle. That was also too late.

The iceberg collided with the starboard side of the ship's hull, and although the metal plates were not pierced they were dented so badly that the seams between the plates were buckled and separated.

It allowed freezing water to rush into five of the ship's 16 compartments, each separated by bulkheads. The Titanic had been designed to remain afloat with four compartments flooded.

The ship almost immediately began to tip down at the bow, causing further problems. The bulkheads between each compartment did not reach fully to the top and, as the ship tipped up, water spilled over the tops into other compartments, making the situation even worse.

Captain Edward Smith had been called to the bridge and, at five minutes past

DEATH TOLL

- Exact numbers on board were not known, because some people who booked tickets appear not to have made the voyage. These figures are from the British inquiry into the disaster. A separate American inquiry was also carried out.
- Total numbers on board, including crew members.....**2,224**
- Number of deaths.....**1,514**
- People saved.....**710**
- There were **109** children aboard, with **56** saved and **53** lost.

midnight – 25 minutes after the collision – he ordered the lifeboats to be prepared and the passengers roused.

This was when one of the fatal flaws in the ship's preparations became apparent.

The Titanic had 16 davits to lower lifeboats from the deck into the sea and each could handle four lifeboats, all of which could carry 64 people. That would have allowed more than 4,000 people to leave a sinking ship by lifeboat, many more than the ship's maximum capacity and almost double the number who were actually on the voyage.

But, in common with standard prac-

tice at the time, the Titanic only carried enough lifeboats to accommodate about half those on board. It had 20 lifeboats of various sizes which could have taken just over 1,000 people.

In addition, the crew had not been properly trained in using the lifeboats and were unsure how many people at a time could be lowered from the davits. As a result, many of the lifeboats were barely half full when lowered.

As the Titanic sank, another cruise ship, Carpathia, was in the area and immediately headed towards the disaster to help. It was able to take on board the 710 survivors and carry them the rest of the way to New York.

But mystery surrounded why another ship did not help. The SS Californian was much closer than the Carpathia and its crew even saw distress flares from the Titanic but the captain, Stanley Lord, decided not to act. He was heavily criticised by the inquiries into the disaster, which claimed his ship could have saved almost all those on board.

In terms of lives lost in peacetime, the Titanic remains one of the worst maritime disasters in history.

Frederick Fleet, along with the five other lookouts among the crew, was among the survivors.

MEDIA



The front pages of The Daily Mirror on the three days immediately after the Titanic's sinking – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 16-18, 1912

PEOPLE SOME OF THE KEY FIGURES IN THE TITANIC STORY

Captain Edward John Smith

The most senior captain on the White Star Line, Smith (pictured) was moved from the Olympic to take command of the Titanic on its maiden voyage.

He was criticised in some quarters for the ship's high speed through the ice field, but praised by others for his attempts to save passengers.

Smith went down with his ship and was reportedly seen still standing on the bridge as the Titanic sank.

Bruce Ismay

The chairman of the White Star Line is often portrayed as the villain of the Titanic disaster. He was reported to have urged Captain Smith to keep up the ship's high speed and was seen as a coward for saving himself by taking a place on a lifeboat ahead of women and children.

Thomas Andrews

The naval architect who designed the Titanic and, on the very day it sank, told a friend the ship was "as nearly perfect as human brains can make her". He went down with the ship.

Frederick Fleet

The 24-year-old lookout who spotted the fatal iceberg and raised the alarm. He survived and lived to the age of 77.

John Jacob Astor IV

The wealthiest man aboard, Astor was an American multi-millionaire and thought to be one of the world's richest men. He saw his wife onto a lifeboat but remained on the ship himself and died.

Noel Leslie, Countess of Rothes

The British philanthropist and society figure was hailed as a heroine of the disaster. She organised a lifeboat, took the tiller herself and eventually helped row the boat to safety.

WT Stead

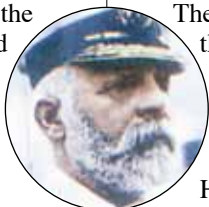
The leading British journalist of the time, Stead had been editor of the Northern Echo and then the Pall Mall Gazette, where he became a renowned campaigner for social reform. He gave his lifejacket to another passenger and died in the freezing sea as he clung to the outside of a lifeboat.

Dorothy Gibson

A silent film actress, she was rescued and went on to play herself in the 1912 film *Saved from the Titanic*.

Millvina Dean

A two-month-old baby at the time, she was saved and lived to the age of 97, the last remaining Titanic survivor.



BRITANNIC

Sister ship in second disaster

The third ship of White Star Line's Olympic-class group of liners also came to a shocking end.

After Olympic and Titanic, Britannic was built with design changes after lessons learned from the Titanic disaster, and was said to be the safest of the three.

It was intended to be a transatlantic cruise ship but, when World War One broke out, Britannic was requisitioned by the British government to be used as a hospital ship.

Sailing in the Aegean Sea near the Greek island of Kea in November 1916, she was rocked by an explosion. It was originally thought to have been caused by a torpedo from a German U-boat (submarine), but in fact the ship had hit a German mine, or floating bomb.

Of the 1,066 people on board, 30 were killed and the remaining 1,036 were rescued from the water or from lifeboats. Britannic was the largest ship sunk in the war.

AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

The bow of the Titanic pictured on the Atlantic seabed and, above, the ship's bell retrieved from the wreck

Wreck of Titanic found two miles under ocean

Many plans to find and even raise the wreck of the Titanic were foiled by two major problems.

Nobody knew exactly where it was and, if it was found, it would be lying at an enormous depth.

Success finally came in 1985 when a French-American expedition using sonar discovered the wreck, more than 13 miles away from the location wrongly given by the Titanic's radio operators on the fateful night.

What was not revealed at the time of the discovery was that the expedition was actually looking for the wrecks of two nuclear-powered American submarines which sank in the 1960s, but found the Titanic by accident instead.

The wreck was lying 2.2 miles (3.7km) beneath the surface, south of

the Canadian province of Newfoundland and, contrary to the belief the Titanic had sunk in one piece, it was found to have split in two, almost certainly as it sank.

The bow section was more or less intact but the stern was crushed by the impact with the sea bed.

Since the find, the wreck has been visited by many expeditions, and debris from the ship was scattered across an area of 15 square miles.

Thousands of items have been recovered from the wreck and are highly prized by museums around the world. Parts of the ship, furniture and even dinner plates and other items from the ship's restaurants have been found, along with passengers' personal items.

The wreck is expected to collapse completely within the next 30-40 years.

INQUIRIES

Two official inquiries into the disaster were held, one in Britain and the other in the United States.

Both were critical of the speed the Titanic had maintained despite the warnings of ice fields in the direction it was heading.

They also ordered a change in the rules regarding lifeboats.

White Star Line had followed standard practice at the time, but the inquiries said in future passenger ships should carry enough lifeboats to carry everybody aboard, and that proper lifeboat drills and training should be carried out.

21ST CENTURY MARITIME DISASTERS //////////////////////////////////////

Le Joola, 2002

An overloaded ferry capsized in rough seas off the coast of Senegal in west Africa. There were only 64 survivors and the estimated death toll was 1,864 people.

Spice Islander 1, 2011

A passenger ferry sank off the coast of Tanzania in east Africa. At least 200 people were confirmed dead, but the toll is thought to be many more.

Migrant vessel, 2015

As many as 1,000 were feared dead when a vessel carrying migrants and refugees from Libya to the Italian island of Lampedusa sank in the Mediterranean.

Al Salam Boccaccio, 2006

A roll-on, roll-off ferry sailing from Saudi Arabia to Egypt sank in the Red Sea. Of the 1,408 people on board, including crew, only 388 survived.

REMEMBERING THE TITANIC



The pride of a city once more

» Belfast thrives on memories of Titanic

For much of the 20th century, the Titanic disaster was a subject often avoided in Northern Ireland.

The ship was built in Belfast's famous Harland and Wolff shipyards, and the tragedy brought huge grief to the country and was seen as a blow to Belfast's civic pride.

That all changed in the 21st century, when the city and the Northern Ireland Executive finally decided to make the most of the public's enduring fascination with the Titanic.

The Queen's Island area of Belfast, where Harland and Wolff created huge slipways and docks in which the Titanic

and Olympic were built side by side, had become derelict as the industry declined over the years.

It was decided to redevelop the area and rename it as the Titanic Quarter, with the Titanic Belfast museum as its centrepiece.

The dramatic building cost £100million to build and was opened in March 2012, in time for the centenary of the Titanic disaster.

Titanic Belfast has reinvigorated tourism in Northern Ireland with as many as 800,000 people a year visiting the museum. That makes it the country's second most popular attraction, behind the Giant's Causeway rock formation.

The museum features nine galleries, each telling a different part of the Titanic story, including its construction, the disaster, aftermath and the wreck.

SPOOKY FOOTNOTE

Author Morgan Robertson wrote a novel called *The Wreck of the Titan: Or, Futility*, featuring a ship called the SS Titan.

The vessel was a similar size and weight to the Titanic and, in the book, the ship was sunk after colliding with an iceberg in the north Atlantic. As with the Titanic, there were not enough lifeboats for all the passengers.

Sounds a pretty easy book to write? Except for the fact Robertson's novel was written in 1898 – some 14 years *before* the Titanic disaster...

From disaster to Hollywood fame

Many books, television series and films have been produced based on the story of the Titanic disaster.

Perhaps the best-known is the 1997 film *Titanic*, written, directed and co-produced by James Cameron.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet (pictured), it featured a fictional love story set among the real story of the famous disaster.

The tricky visual effects meant its premiere was delayed several times,



prompting rumours the film itself was going to be a disaster.

But it was eventually nominated for 14 Academy Awards – known as the Oscars – and won 11 of them, a record it holds jointly with *Ben-Hur* (1959) and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003).

Although probably best known for the parts played by DiCaprio and Winslet, neither won the best actor or best actress awards – DiCaprio was not even nominated.

TITANIC'S OSCARS

- Best film.....Titanic
- Best directorJames Cameron
- Best art direction Peter Lamont and Michael D Ford
- Best cinematography.....Russell Carpenter
- Best costume designDeborah Lynn Scott
- Best film editing Conrad Buff, James Cameron and Richard A Harris
- Best original music James Horner
- Best original songJames Horner and Will Jennings
- Best soundGary Rydstrom, Tom Johnson, Gary Summers, and Mark Ulano
- Best sound effects Tom Bellfort and Christopher Boyes
- Best visual effectsRobert Legato, Mark Lasoff, Thomas Fisher and Michael Kanfer

Titanic was also nominated for three other Oscars, which it did not win: best actress (Kate Winslet), best supporting actress (Gloria Stuart) and best make-up.



Disaster at Sea

What did the Titanic hit, causing it to sink?

.....

The Titanic was the biggest and most luxurious ocean liner in the world.
What does the word **luxurious** mean?

in a neglected state

extremely comfortable or elegant

extremely fast

What happened to the ship's designer Thomas Andrews?

.....

.....



Which shipyard built the Titanic?

.....

What did the captain believe would stop the ship from filling with water?

.....

.....

What does the phrase 'maiden voyage' mean?

.....





"As Nearly Perfect..."

Match the name of the part of the ship with its description.

aft

bulkhead

bridge

davit

bow

starboard

an upright wall

used to lower lifeboats

the right-hand side

towards the back

the front of a ship

the room from where the
ship is controlled

Using the article on page 2, write short paragraph which might have been used to persuade rich passengers to take a journey on board the Titanic.

.....

.....

.....

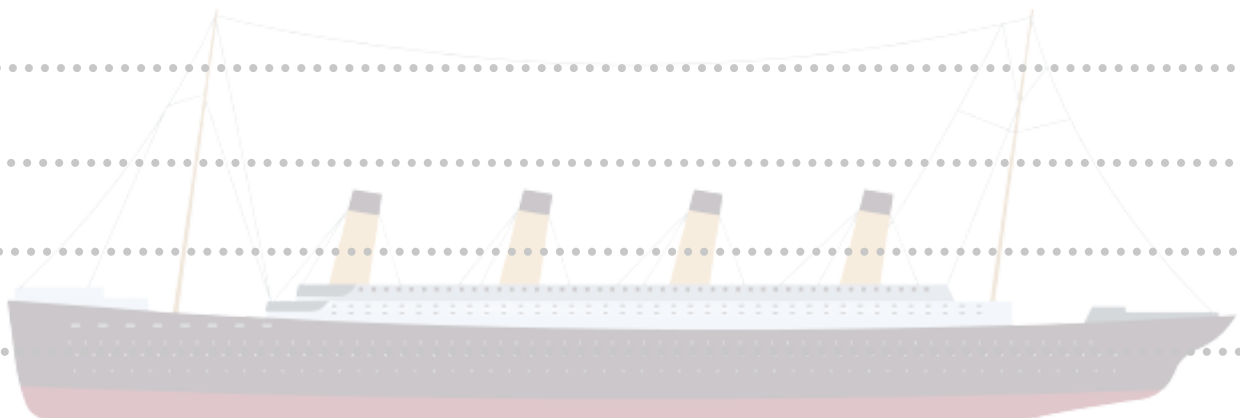
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The final, fatal night

Match the name with their position on the ship.

Look out

First officer

Captain

William Murdoch

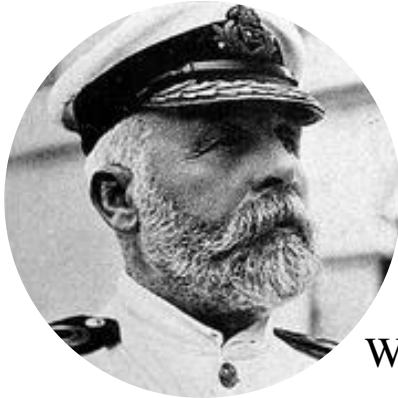
Edward Smith

Frederick Fleet

What did Frederick Fleet shout to alert the bridge?



How long after the collision did Captain Smith (pictured) arrive on the bridge?



How many people were saved in total?

Why were the lifeboats not all filled?

Which ship was the first to arrive and help the passengers?

Who was Stanley Lord and why was he criticised?



Key Figures

Who was the wealthiest man on aboard the Titanic?

.....

Who was the last remaining Titanic survivor?

.....

Who played Dorothy Gibson in the film Saved from the Titanic?

.....

Why were Bruce Ismay and Captain Smith criticised by some people?

.....

.....

What were the names of the other two Olympic-class liners made for the White Star Line alongside the Titanic.

.....

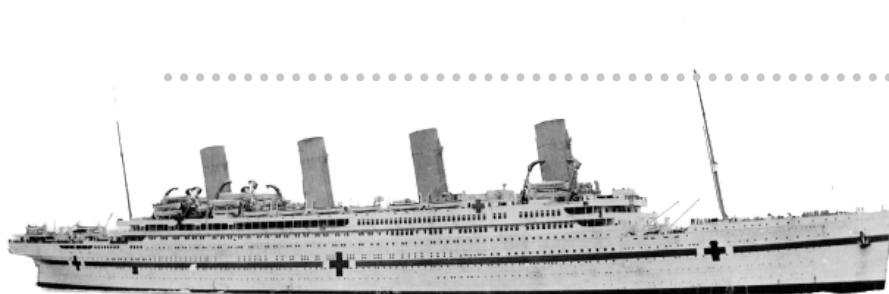
Summarise what happened to the Brittanic during WW1.

.....

.....

.....

.....





Discovery of the Wreck

Where was the wreck of the Titanic found?

.....

What was the expedition that found the wreck actually looking for?

.....

How big is the area in which debris from the wreck is scattered?

.....



The front end of the ship was completely crushed.

Do you agree with this diver? Why do you think this?

.....

.....



What obstacles frustrated many plans to find the wreckage?

.....

.....

.....

.....



The Pride of a City

What is the Queen's Island area of Belfast now known as?

.....

In what year did the Titanic museum open and how much did it cost to build?

.....

Write a definition for the word *derelict*.

.....

What does the word reinvigorated mean?

.....



How many people visit the Titanic Belfast museum every year?

.....

What is the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland?

.....

Why has the journalist called the book written by Morgan Robertson 'spooky'?

.....

.....

.....