

The ship that couldn't sink

The Titanic, with 2,300 passengers aboard, was on its first voyage from Southampton to New York. It was 11.40 pm on 14th April 1912 and the sea was calm. Suddenly the look-out man saw the enormous iceberg. 'Iceberg ahead!' he shouted.

Immediately the ship turned, but not soon enough. The iceberg tore a 300-foot hole in the hull and water began to pour in. At first the captain didn't worry because the ship was 'unsinkable'. Then the ship began to lean. At 12.05 the captain gave the order 'Uncover the lifeboats!'

The wireless operator sent out an SOS signal. Six ships began to race towards the Titanic. But the two ships who were closest did not hear the desperate calls for help.

At 2 am the captain gave the order 'Abandon ship!'. In one of the lifeboats was a young woman, Emily Richards, and her baby. She said later: 'It was the most frightening sight I have ever seen. The sea was full of bodies. The water was so icy that nobody could survive for more than a few minutes.'

A few minutes later the Titanic began to slip beneath the surface. One by one the last passengers jumped into the sea. Then the stern rose up in the air and the Titanic sank quickly out of sight.

At dawn the next morning a rescue boat picked up 705 survivors from the lifeboats. Most of them were first and second class passengers. All their children survived. Of the children who travelled third class, only a third survived.

Put the events into the correct order.

1. ... and it began to lean.
2. At 11.40 pm on 14th April the ship hit an iceberg.
3. Then the Titanic sank quickly out of sight.
4. At 2 am the captain gave the order 'Abandon ship!'
5. At dawn a rescue boat picked up 705 survivors.
6. A few minutes later the last passengers jumped into the sea.

7. Water immediately poured in through the hull of the ship ...
8. In early April 1912 the Titanic started on its first voyage from Southampton to New York.

Write

Write the sentences in the correct order to make a summary of the text.