

An unsinkable legend

WORKSHEET A

In 1898, American author Morgan Robertson published a fictional novel called 1)_____. It was a story about a huge ship, the largest liner ever built, carrying on its maiden voyage some of the richest people in the world. The ship weighed 3)_____ tons, it was 243 metres long, could travel at a speed of about 5)_____ and was considered 'unsinkable'. Crossing the North Atlantic at full speed on an April night, it struck an iceberg and sank. Due to a shortage of lifeboats, 2,000 of the 3,000 passengers (66%) lost their lives in the icy waters. The ship was named the 7)_____.

In 1912, fourteen years later, a huge ship (the largest liner ever built) was on its maiden voyage, carrying some of the richest people in the world. The ship weighed 66,000 tons, was 9)_____ metres long, could travel at a speed of about 25 knots and was considered 'unsinkable'. Crossing the North Atlantic at full speed on the night of April 14th, it struck an iceberg and sank. Due to a shortage of lifeboats, 11)_____ passengers (66%) lost their lives in the icy waters. The ship was named the *Titanic*.

Was it pure coincidence or was Robertson a visionary? We will never know – he died shortly after the real-life disaster, in 1915, along with the answer.

1 Write the questions.

- 1 What _____?
- 3 How much _____?
- 5 How fast _____?
- 7 What _____?
- 9 How long _____?
- 11 How many _____?

2 Complete the story with your partner. Use the words in the box.

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1)_____ 1985, 73 years 2)_____ it sank, Dr Robert Ballard and his research team discovered the wreck of the *Titanic* lying 3)_____ a depth of 3,810 metres below the North Atlantic. He and his colleagues designed a robot which could take photos and video footage 4)_____ the wreck. They returned the following year 5)_____ their new robot, named *Jason Jr*, to record their find. The videotapes were released 6)_____ July 24th, 1986.

They found that the *Titanic* was not sunk 7)_____ an enormous hole 8)_____ the bottom, torn 9)_____ an iceberg, as had been previously thought. Instead, they believe that the liner ran 10)_____ the iceberg and buckled 11)_____ impact. The rivets, which held the liner together, popped 12)_____ and the ship literally fell apart.

Since the discovery of the wreck, interest 13)_____ the *Titanic* has been re-kindled. There have been a number of books and TV programmes 14)_____ the subject and even a blockbuster Hollywood movie. The ship might not have been unsinkable after all, but its legend certainly is.

An unsinkable legend

WORKSHEET B

In 1898, American author Morgan Robertson published a fictional novel called *Futility*. It was a story about a 2) _____, the largest liner ever built, carrying on its maiden voyage some of the richest people in the world. The ship weighed 70,000 tons, it was 4) _____ metres long, could travel at a speed of about 25 knots and was considered 'unsinkable'. Crossing the North Atlantic at full speed on an April night, it struck an iceberg and sank. Due to a shortage of lifeboats, 6) _____ passengers (66%) lost their lives in the icy waters. The ship was named the *Titan*.

In 1912, fourteen years later, a huge ship (the largest liner ever built) was on its maiden voyage, carrying some of the richest people in the world. The ship weighed 8) _____ tons, was 268 metres long, could travel at a speed of about 10) _____ and was considered 'unsinkable'. Crossing the North Atlantic at full speed on the night of April 14th, it struck an iceberg and sank. Due to a shortage of lifeboats, 1500 of the 2300 passengers (66%) lost their lives in the icy waters. The ship was named the 12) _____.

Was it pure coincidence or was Robertson a visionary? We will never know – he died shortly after the real-life disaster, in 1915, along with the answer.

1 Write the questions.

- 2 What _____?
- 4 How long _____?
- 6 How many _____?
- 8 How much _____?
- 10 How fast _____?
- 12 What _____?

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Since the discovery of the wreck, interest 13) _____ the *Titanic* has been re-kindled. There have been a number of books and TV programmes 14) _____ the subject and even a blockbuster Hollywood movie. The ship might not have been unsinkable after all, but its legend certainly is.