



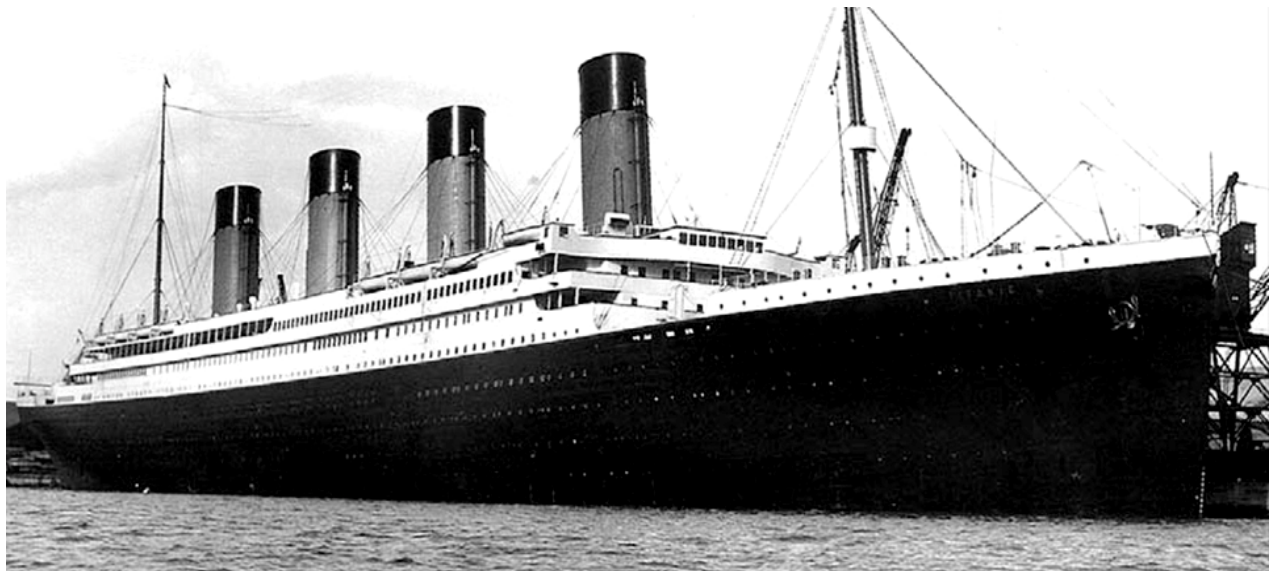
# Titanic, the Musical

## ~ Background Resources ~

In preparation for your upcoming trip to see The Community Players' Production of *Titanic, the Musical*, we have prepared some background information about the R.M.S. Titanic and her sinking.

### Timeline of Events

March 31st, 1909 ~ 12:00 am	Titanic's Keel Laid at Harland and Wolff Shipyard
March 20th, 1912 ~ 12:00 am	Date originally proposed for maiden voyage
April 2nd, 1912 ~ 6:00 am	Titanic begins Sea Trials
<b>April 2nd, 1912 ~ 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Titanic leaves Belfast for Southampton</b>
April 3rd, 1912 ~ 12:00 am	Titanic arrives in Southampton
April 5th, 1912 ~ 12:00 am	Good Friday: Titanic is 'dressed' overall
April 10th, 1912 ~ 12:00 pm	Titanic leaves Southampton for Cherbourg
April 10th, 1912 ~ 6:30 pm	Titanic arrives at Cherbourg.
April 10th, 1912 ~ 8:00 pm	Titanic leaves Cherbourg for Queenstown
April 11th, 1912 ~ 11:30 am	Titanic arrives at Queenstown
<b>April 11th, 1912 ~ 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Titanic raises anchor for the last time and leaves Queenstown, headed for New York.</b>
April 14th, 1912 ~ 11:40 pm	Frederick Fleet sights an Iceberg
<b>April 15th, 1912 ~ 2:20 am</b>	<b>Titanic Sinks</b>
April 15th, 1912 ~ 8:50 am	Carpathia leaves site for New York carrying 705 survivors
<b>April 18th, 1912 ~ 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Carpathia arrives in New York with Titanic survivors</b>



## Did You Know?

- R.M.S. stands for Royal Mail Ship ~ the Titanic carried over 7 million pieces of mail on her maiden voyage, all of which was lost;
- the Titanic was over 250m long, as tall as an 11-storey building and weighed 46,000 tons;
- the “unsinkable” ship was larger than any ship before her, with a greater proportion of steel than any previous ship, and a double bottom layer to safeguard against puncturing;
- First-class passengers were treated to the finest luxuries, including:
  - ⇒ the first on-ship swimming pool, gymnasium and squash court;
  - ⇒ a loading crane and compartment for automobiles;
  - ⇒ coal-burning fireplaces in their sitting rooms;
  - ⇒ full-sized four-poster beds in their bedrooms;
- April is the worst month for icebergs; the Titanic’s captain had received a number of warnings of iceberg’s in the ship’s path;
- the submerged part of the iceberg sliced a 90m gash in the ship’s hull
- the energy absorbed in the collision was so insignificant compared to to the total energy of the vessel (how large it was combined with the speed it was travelling) that the passengers barely felt the impact;
- there were only sixteen lifeboats and four emergency rafts ~ only enough for approximately half of the passengers;
- the passengers were never given a safety boat drill to review emergency procedures and therefore did not know where they were supposed to go in case of an emergency;
- although there was enough room for 1,178 people in the lifeboats, they were not filled to capacity and only 711 were actually saved by the boats;
- the Californian, another large passenger ship, was only 20 miles away from The Titanic, but the ship’s wireless operator had stopped working for the night approximately 20 minutes before the Titanic sent out its distress call ~ it was one of the first times the “S.O.S.” signal was used in history;
- some of the initial newspaper reports indicated that all the passengers had been rescued
- the Titanic disaster resulted in a number of changes in both the shipping and telecommunications industries, including:
  - ⇒ shipping lanes were relocated farther south, away from the ice
  - ⇒ the number of lifeboats was based on the number of passengers, not the tonnage of the ship
  - ⇒ mandatory lifeboat drills were held soon after any ship’s launch
  - ⇒ wireless operators worked around the clock, never leaving a station unmonitored
  - ⇒ due to amateur interference with the communication signals, all wireless operators were required to be licensed
- the remains of the Titanic were discovered on September 1, 1985 by a joint French-American team approximately 560km off the coast of Nova Scotia, 4km below the ocean’s surface



## Bibliography

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- Mertz, Leslie A. "Remains of the RMS Titanic Discovered." Science and Its Times: Understanding the Social Significance of Scientific Discovery. Eds. Josh Lauer and Neil Schlager. Vol. 7: 1950 To Present. Detroit: Gale, 2001. 33-36. 8 vols. Gale Virtual Reference Library. Thomson Gale. Waterloo. 17 Apr. 2007 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>
- "Sinking of the Titanic." DISCovering Science. Detroit: Gale, 2003. Discovering Collection. Thomson Gale. Waterloo. 17 Apr. 2007 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.
- "Titanic Timeline." Encyclopedia Titanica. 2006. 17 Apr. 2007 <[http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/list\\_timeline.php](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/list_timeline.php)>.

## Recommended Web Sites



**Titanic: a special exhibit from Encyclopedia Britannica**  
<http://search.eb.com/titanic/>

**BBC's "Titanic: Sinking the Myths"** ~ Paul Loudon-Brown, vice-president of the Titanic Historical Society separates the truth from the many surviving myths  
[www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/britain\\_wwone/titanic\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/britain_wwone/titanic_01.shtml)

**BBC - Southampton - Features - Titanic Index** ~ includes a virtual tour of key places and buildings in Southampton that played a role in Titanic's history, as it was in 1912  
[www.bbc.co.uk/southampton/features/titanic/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/southampton/features/titanic/index.shtml)

**Encyclopedia Smithsonian: the Titanic** ~ from the Smithsonian Institute  
[www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmah/titanic.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmah/titanic.htm)

**Lost Liners: the Titanic** ~ from PBS  
[www.pbs.org/lostliners/teacher.html](http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/teacher.html)  
 for a Teacher Guide that includes various lesson plans and activities (Gr. 7-10), visit  
[www.pbs.org/lostliners/teacher.html](http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/teacher.html)

**Titanic Newspaper Archive** ~ a free archive of newspapers about the history of the Titanic  
[www.titanicarchive.com](http://www.titanicarchive.com)

**Encyclopedia Titanica** ~ contains over 2,100 passenger and crew biographies, interactive deck plans, and other articles submitted by historians or Titanic enthusiasts  
[www.encyclopedia-titanica.org](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org)

