**Titanic facts & information**

*Read the following and answer the questions as fully as you can.*

The Titanic was, and probably still is, the most famous ship ever to have been built.

It was built by the White Star Line company, which was owned by a rich American businessman called J.P.Morgan, and was thought to be ‘practically unsinkable’.

It cost a massive $7.5 million dollars (about £5.2 million) and was the largest passenger steamship ever built. It took 3,000 men three years to build!

Life on the big ship certainly promised to be plush if you could afford it! Those travelling first class could while away the hours between the swimming pool, gymnasium, squash racquet court and Turkish baths. Second-class passengers could get involved in deck games and board games like chess and backgammon. But those in the third-class quarters weren’t offered such luxuries!

The RMS Titanic finally set off for its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, on 10 April 1912.

The Titanic cost a fortune to run. It burned around 600 tonnes of coal a day, shovelled into its furnaces by a team of 176 men.

It was well stocked with food and drink too! Every 24 hours, 14,000 gallons of drinking water were consumed. There were 20,000 bottles of beer on board, 1,500 bottles of wine and 8,000 cigars – all for the first-class guests of course. Before the fatal collision, the first-class passengers were served a supper consisting of an incredible 11 courses!

During the ship’s short journey, they received six iceberg warnings, but the fatal sighting of an iceberg came on the night of 14 April 1912. The ship was ordered to turn but it was too big to do so in time and at 11.40pm the ship struck the iceberg. Just three hours later, the huge ship sunk completely.

The Titanic was so big, she couldn’t change direction quickly enough. She scraped along the iceberg's side, tearing holes in at least four sections of the hull!

In the chaos, many of the lifeboats went out with only a few passengers in them. The fact was there weren’t enough lifeboats for the amount of passengers on board. There were only 16 wooden lifeboats and four collapsible boats, enough to carry 1,178 people, only a third of the Titanic’s total capacity – amazingly that was still more than was legally required.

Just over 1500 people died in the tragedy, with only 715 survivors. Amongst the survivors were two of the nine dogs on board – a Pomeranian and a Pekinese.

The Titanic sank at night, so the sky would have been pitch black and the water was freezing (-2 degrees Celsius). Many people would have died from the shock of the cold within minutes.

At the time of the Titanic, there was a sea law that said women and children needed to be rescued first. This explains why most of the people who died were men.

Millvina Dean was the last remaining survivor of the Titanic. She was only two months old when she joined the ship on its maiden voyage. She died on May 31, 2009, aged 97.

**Questions**

Answer the following questions as fully as you can.

1. The ship was thought to be 'practically unsinkable'. Explain how this is ironic.
2. Explain the word, 'plush'.
3. Give three differences that the first class passengers experienced compared to the third class passengers.
4. For how many days was the Titanic a success?
5. Based on the information given in the text, who would you blame for the Titanic's demise? Give reasons for your answer.