

Contents and information for Teachers

TITANIC



Titanic trunk

The artefacts in this collection are intended to be used as stimulating hook into a topic about the sinking of the Titanic. Some items are facsimiles or replicas of genuine relics from the ill-fated ship, others are genuine items from the period. We suggest using the trunk in a **Mystery Owner activity** whereby pupils deduce who the owner was and where they were.

Please read through these notes before teaching and repack the trunk so that you can reveal the items in the suggested order to avoid giving the game away too early.



Have the trunk ready in the classroom with its lid up before pupils assemble to ensure they do not see the White Star labels on its lid.

First, reveal the following items from the main trunk. From these pupils should deduce that the trunk's owner is a lady.

Ladies nightdress



Ladies long kid gloves



Black vanity and jewellery case



Now reveal the following items from the main (top) compartment of the vanity case, these imply that the owner is not from today and is probably fairly wealthy.

Two silver topped cosmetic bottles and a cardboard rouge pot with rouge



Ebony glove stretchers



Metal mirror



Back to upper compartment to reveal the items that are clues that a voyage on a ship may be part of the answer.

Silver calling card case with 4 cards



Blue roll-up manicure case



You can read out the messages on the cards - they contain further clues that the owner is aboard a ship.

Wooden pot labelled 'Seasick Remedy' – clue to being on a ship



Fountain pen



Now make a show of noticing the **railway stickers on the side** of the tin trunk.

Vinolia soap in box (replica)

Although the box has a picture of Titanic on it, pupils are unlikely to pick this up as a clue at present. If they do, play dumb and say something like 'So it must be from a long time ago then.'

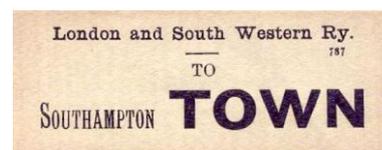


Now 'notice' the lower compartment of the vanity case and open it up to reveal a piece of dress jewellery.

Ladies brooch



These show the trunk has travelled to Southampton by rail. So our mystery owner was probably boarding a ship at Southampton having travelled from elsewhere by rail on the London train.



'Southampton Town' was the original name for Southampton's Terminus station, parts of which can still be seen behind South Western House opposite the docks. Indeed the tracks still run across Canute Road and into the docks at that point.

Now find the **White Star labels** on the lid. (Facsimiles of genuine labels)



Discuss the clues the labels offer. 'White Star' may give the game away, if any children already know Titanic's story. The passenger's name etc would be filled in but we have not completed it.

Pretend to be about to pack the black vanity case away but make a show of finding some things still in the bottom of the trunk.

2nd Class dinner menu ~ **corner torn to hide name 'Titanic'**

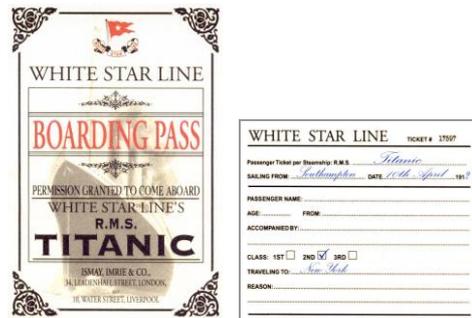


Face towel (replica)



The embroidered White Star logo and name should finally solve the puzzle.

White Star Titanic Boarding Card (Front and reverse)



This seals the deal. The boarding card reverse confirms the voyage date and that the owner boarded in Southampton to sail all the way to New York.

Putting all the clues together pupils should now have deduced that the trunk's owner is a female Second Class passenger on board Titanic's maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

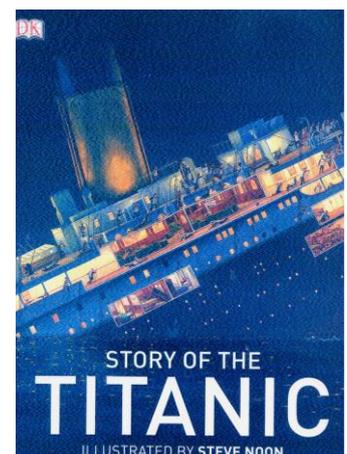
You should now have hooked your children in, they are ready to find out what happened to the mighty Titanic.

The remaining items provided with the collection are included as support resources for the topic and are not intended to be used in the Mystery Owner activity. More such items are included in our new *Titanic: Triumph or Tragedy* CD Resource pack for KS1 & 2 released April 2012.

Information and story books:

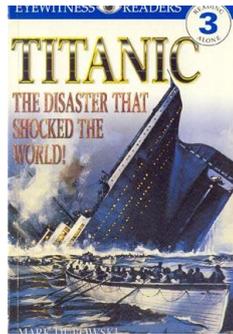
Story of the Titanic

Pupils will be fascinated by the panoramic scenes from this book which accurately tell the whole story from Titanic's building to her sad end. Use the book initially to explore how and where Titanic was built, her many facilities and how these differed for the different classes on board and the people that travelled and worked on her.



Titanic: the disaster that shocked the world!

Suitable for capable readers or for you to retell the story of the disaster factually.

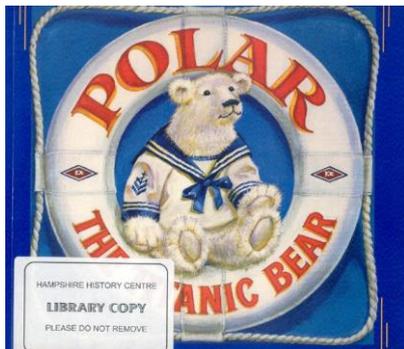


White Star New York ticket price flyer

Note that this leaflet gives the time, date and prices for Titanic's planned inaugural return journey from New York to Southampton and Europe – a journey that never happened, of course.



Polar the Titanic Bear



A fascinating story written from the point of view of Polar, a Steiff polar bear teddy who is owned by a young boy from a rich American family. The story charts Polar's travels with his young master that include Titanic's ill-fated maiden voyage.

White Star publicity materials advertising Titanic and her sister ship Atlantic before they were launched:

White Star publicity booklet



Concertina advertising flyer



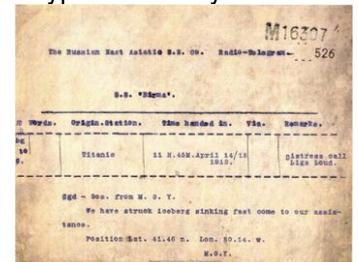
Materials illustrating the aftermath of the disaster:

Distress signal received by SS Birma

You should explain that telegrams were the only form of electronic communication at the time.

Messages were not spoken or typed like today.

Each individual letter of a message was sent as a series of long and short tones -morse code - which were translated into text by the receiving telegraph operator.



The Daily Graphic - Titanic Memorial edition (facsimilie) and two A2 posters - *New York Times* front page and - upper decks layout

