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1. What do you know about the Titanic? Write down your ideas here.

2. Look at the numbers below. Match them with the correct option.

- _____ length
- _____ width
- _____ weight
- _____ top speed
- _____ year of first trip
- _____ number of third-class passengers
- _____ number of crew people on board
- _____ height of icebergs seen in the area



Read the story to check your answers.



The Titans, of Greek mythology, were a family of giants. White Star's great new *liner*, Titanic, is a giant, *the mightiest* ever built, a ship that Britain can be proud of. She is 300 metres long, 30 metres wide, and weighs 46,000 tons. She has been built to carry 2,500 passengers

and crew. Her top speed is over 21 knots (41 kilometres an hour). The ticket for first-class passengers is quite *exceptional*. Artists and craftsmen have provided an extraordinary *variety* of styles. There is a Georgian saloon, a Louis XIV saloon, a Louis XV saloon. The staircases

go down four *decks*, with the breadth and *splendour* of a luxury hotel, and there is a lift. One of the wonders of the ship is that its lighting is all electric. Many of our hotels still do not have electric light. The Titanic also has a gymnasium and a heated swimming-pool.

liner a large boat carrying people across the sea regularly – 23 *the mightiest* the most powerful – 24 *crew* people working on a ship or a plane – 20 *knot* the speed of ships is measured in knots. A knot is a nautical mile (1 knot = 1.15 miles per hour) – *luxury* great comfort, usually expensive – 24 *exceptional* very unusual – 25 *craftsman* specialist worker – *variety* number of different things – 28 *Georgian (style)* 18th century style in England – 19 *deck* floor of a boat – 21 *splendour* magnificence, extravagance

This is a **resume** of the many articles that were written about the world's greatest ship **on the eve of her maiden voyage** in April 1912.

One of the most exciting pieces of information that the journalists had to report was the ship's very special construction.

"The Titanic is the safest ship in the world. She has a double bottom and 16 watertight compartments. If there	is a collision and the bow s of the ship are holed, her bulkheads can be shut immediately by the officer on the	bridge . All hands to go is pull the red switch. This magnificent ship is unsinkable."
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The *Titanic* was built by one of Britain's best shipbuilders, Harland and Wolff of Belfast, and the ship's managing director, Thomas Andrews, and eight of his workers were invited to sail with her. Not one of them ever saw Ireland again.

On Wednesday, April 10th, 1912, thousands of sightseers, friends and relations came to Southampton **to see** the great ship **off**. Few ships have ever carried so many **distinguished** passengers. There was an American artist, Frank Millet, a well-known British journalist, William Stead, an American novelist, American senators and some of the richest men and women in British and American society. **On board**, too, was the managing director of the White Star Line, Bruce Ismay, for whom it was a very great occasion.

In fact Bruce Ismay did not quite know whether he was a passenger or a member of the crew. After the ship sailed he would suddenly jump up and rush up to the bridge, or down to the engine-room where he gave orders to the engineers without the

1. **summary** - 2 **on the eve of** the period just before an event - 2 **maiden voyage** the very first journey of a ship or boat - 10 **watertight compartment** separate areas inside a boat without openings to let water in - 8 **bow(s)** the front part of a ship - 9 **bulkhead** wall that separates the different parts of a ship - 7 **bridge** part of the ship where the captain stands to control the movement of the ship - 18 **to see sth here**: to watch the Titanic leave the harbour - 19 **distinguished** important, famous - 23 **on board** on a ship
