

Exploring the Titanic

Lesson Title: *First Class First? Using Data to Explore the Tragedy of the Titanic*

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You will be working with a partner to explore the ***Titanic: A Special Exhibit from Britannica Online*** (<http://www.britannica.com/titanic/>). You and your partner should each complete this worksheet as you are exploring the resource.

1. Write down some of the numerical data that you encounter. For example, the introduction states that "the vessel sank with a loss of about 1,500 lives at a point about 400 miles (640 km) south of Newfoundland."
2. Write down the names of passengers or crewmembers described in the article, noting their social class and experiences while on board.
3. Write down some questions that you have about people on the Titanic.

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The Passengers and Crew of the Titanic

Explore the databases on the *Titanic in the Classroom* website (<http://connections.smsd.org/titanic/index.htm>) to see if you can answer the following questions. You should go to the Titanic Database (<http://areallydifferentplace.org/titanic/list.php>) and then choose either “crew” or “passenger” from the menu found in the top right corner of the alphabetical list. You also can find some interesting information on the Casualty Figures (<http://connections.smsd.org/titanic/casualty%20figures.htm>) page.

You will need to develop your own search strategies to find the answers to some of these questions. **If you can't answer a question, write down the strategies that you used to try to find the answer.**

1. What does the “N” in the Class field represent (i.e., what kind of people)?
2. Record the total number of passengers in each class.
3. How many passengers were from the United States? How many crewmembers were from the United States?
4. Record the number of passengers lost in each class. Does there seem to be a relationship between number lost and social class?
5. How many of the people lost were crewmembers?
6. How many of the people lost were passengers?
7. How did you come up with the answers to questions 5 and 6?
8. Using the numbers that you came up with for questions 5 and 6, find the ratio of lost crew to lost passengers.
9. How many women were part of the crew? What were some of their duties?

Write a question that you would like to answer by using the databases (e.g., What fraction of the male crewmembers were between the ages of 16 and 18?). Provide the answer and describe the search strategy you used to find it. This should be challenging – try to stump your classmates!

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Titanic Lifeboats

Part 1

Go to the ***Titanic Database*** (<http://areallydifferentplace.org/titanic/list.php>) website to do some research on the lifeboats. To find your lifeboat, choose "Lifeboat" from the drop-down menu on the left. Once you have chosen that, you can then choose your lifeboat from the drop-down menu on the right. **Note: Read all of the questions before starting, and create a way to systematically record the information (e.g., table or spreadsheet).**

1. What is your lifeboat number or letter?
2. How many people were on your lifeboat?
3. What were their names and ages?
4. What were their occupations?
5. What is the average age of the people on your lifeboat?
6. What is the ratio of men to women on your lifeboat?
7. Were there any family members on your lifeboat? Who were they?
8. What is the ratio of crew to passengers on your lifeboat?
9. In what class did the majority of the passengers on your lifeboat travel?
10. What else did you discover about the people on your lifeboat?

Now go to the site ***The Titanic Lifeboats***, and use it to revise or expand on your answers to the questions above (<http://dweephor.com/titanic/>).

Part 2

Compile the information you have gathered about the people on your assigned lifeboat. Discuss with your group how this information can help you develop a clearer picture of the people who survived the Titanic. With your group, make a poster or power point presentation to help illustrate some of the information you have discovered about the people in your lifeboat. Include two or more appropriate graphs in your presentation.