

# History Detectives



## INVESTIGATING THE TITANIC DISASTER

Dear History Detective,

We would like you to find out who was *really* responsible for the Titanic sinking. Why did it happen and how can we stop this from ever happening again?

You have a number of sources. There are two types of sources:

- **Primary sources** - these are pieces of information from the time, from people who were there. A photograph of the Titanic is a primary source, because it was taken in 1912, by someone who was there.
- **Secondary sources** - these are pieces of information written after the event by people who were not there. A painting of the ship sinking is a secondary source, because nobody on the lifeboats was painting at the time it happened!

We can tell whether sources are primary or secondary by looking at the **provenance** - the bit of writing underneath. This tells us what the source is, when it is from and sometimes who it is by.

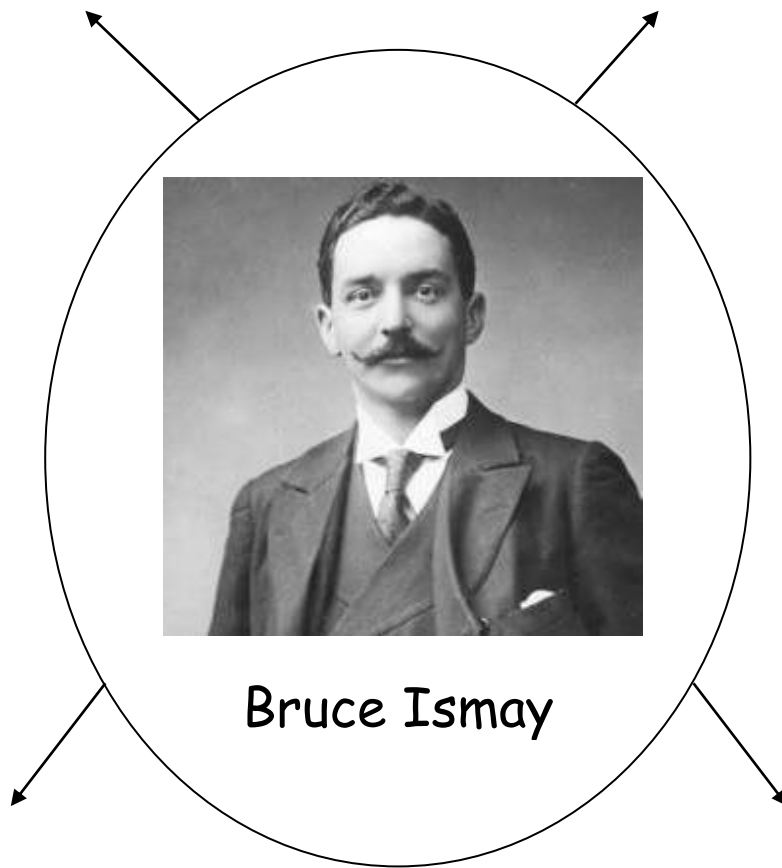
You have a number of challenges to complete.

1. Use the sources to answer the following questions in your booklet.
2. Each source gives you some information about the Titanic, chose as many images as you would like, and label/annotate or write what you can learn from the source about the Titanic, those who worked and sailed on her.
3. Read the statements to decide who you think was responsible for the sinking.

*Good luck, detectives!*

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
How long and wide was Titanic?	
Why was the ship claimed to be 'unsinkable'?	
What facilities (things to do) were there for first class passengers on the Titanic?	
What might people have had for lunch on Titanic's last day?	
How many people were on the Titanic altogether?	
Why did the lookout not see the iceberg coming?	
How many life boats were there?	
What was the name of the ship that rescued passengers in the lifeboats?	
How many people were reported to have died the next day by the New York Times?	
How many people actually died?	
How could the disaster have been avoided?	

Now study the five statements from crew involved in the disaster. What role did each person play in the sinking?



Bruce Ismay



Captain Smith



Officer Murdoch



Captain Lord



Frederick Fleet