Headteacher's Assembly Spring 2024

Why Did the Titanic Sink?

Most answers to this question confidently say "because it hit an iceberg". While this is true it is only a partial answer at best. Further questions such as "Why did it hit an iceberg?" "Why did that cause it to sink?" open up a dialectic path that provides a more intelligent, meaningful and scholarly explanation.

Hit an Iceberg **Human and Environmental** material failures and design flaws brittle fracturing/ Titanic's skipper, Captain E.J. Smith, sailing the massive separation of seams ship at such a high speed (22 knots) poor design of the watertight compartments The wireless radio operator dismissed a key iceberg warning low-quality steel or weak rivets ships at the time operated on two different steering causes of brittle fracture include low order systems temperature, high impact, and high water temperature was below freezing Sulphur content. As the iceberg scraped along sections of the Titanic's weight of the three large propellers stresses in the midsection hull, the rivets were sheared off, which opened up riveted seams atmospheric conditions on the night of the disaster might have caused a phenomenon called super refraction. This bending of Second officer David Blair, who held the light could have created mirages, or optical illusions, key to the Titanic's binocular store of forgot to hand over the key to the officer gravitational pull on the ocean, producing record tides, which who replaced him. caused increased amounts of floating ice in the North Atlantic

There were numerous reasons why the titanic sank, many of which were determined long before the ship set sail. They could broadly be divided into material and design failures, Human error and Environmental factors.

Employing the skills of Dialectic below enables us as scholars to find the truth and gain a better understanding of our world.

<u>Dialectic</u>

- engage critically,
- actively listen,
- use what is learned to further understanding,
- look at multiple perspectives,
- analyze and question.

- Questioning-seeking answers
- Devil's Advocacy- playing opposing position
- Conversation-open ended sharing
- Dialogue-discussion exploring a problem
- Dialogic probing challenging argument
- **Dialectic** investigating through reason to reach agreement
- Debate listening to multiple perspectives

