Project Titanic

“Voices from the Past”
The Children of the Titanic

Introduction

Expedition Titanic is an exhibit that travels to cities around the world. The exhibition features artifacts recovered from the wreck of the Titanic as well as recreations of various parts of the ship, including first and third class cabins as well as the Grand Staircase. Visitors to Expedition Titanic receive replica boarding passes of actual Titanic passengers, and at the end of the exhibit, they match their passengers’ names to the list of survivors or victims. Over 15 million people have visited Expedition Titanic since its opening ten years ago.

Although Expedition Titanic has proved to be a popular attraction; it is not without controversy. Many people, including Dr. Robert Ballard who first discovered the wreck of Titanic in 1985, feel removing artifacts from the ship has no real archeological purpose and amounts to grave-robbing. The Titanic wreck has also suffered physical damage most likely caused by Expedition Titanic recovery expeditions. Dr. Ballard argues we should preserve the wreck as is rather than steal from it and is currently developing technology for the world’s first underwater museum on Titanic’s sister ship Britannic. He envisions a virtual museum that would allow online users to manipulate cameras on the wreck. He hopes one day this technology could also be used on Titanic.

What do you think? Should the Titanic be salvaged or preserved in her final resting place?

The Task

In this activity, we will begin to formulate an opinion about Titanic salvage vs. preservation as we create our own virtual Titanic exhibit, “The Forgotten Voices of Titanic’s Children.” Our virtual exhibit will house a collection of original poetry, artwork, audio, and video files commemorating the 100th anniversary of Titanic’s sinking. After exploring the memorial, we will revisit the question—should Titanic be salvaged and preserved as it is?

Process Overview

1. Part 1: You will use the internet to research details about a real child’s experiences on board the Titanic. You will share your discoveries in an explanatory essay.
2. Part 2: You will produce a creative memorial for your passenger to be featured on our Titanic tribute website.
1. Meet Your Passenger

You have received the name of a child passenger who sailed on the Titanic in 1912. Using Encyclopedia Titanica, answer the following questions about this passenger:

1. Name ___________________________ Age ________________
2. Last Residence _________________________________________________________
3. Traveling to ___________________________________________________________
4. Was this person traveling 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class? ___________________________
5. Did this person survive? _______ If yes, which lifeboat did they enter? ____
   If no, was the body ever recovered? ______________________________________
6. Click on the names in the traveling party. Did anyone in the traveling party survive? __________________________________________________________
7. How much did their ticket cost in British pounds? _________________________
8. How much would that be today in US dollars? _____________________________
   (Hint: To calculate inflation, multiply the price of their ticket x 17. Then convert your
   answer to American dollars using this converter.)
9. How much was this in 1912 US dollars? _________________________________
   (Hint: If you go to this website, you can convert your answer for question 8 to 1912 dol-
   lars. Be sure to check CPI and uncheck everything else before you calculate.)
10. Go to this website and scroll down to the year 1910. How much money did the aver-
    age American make in 1910 (Hint: look at Average of All Industries)? __________
11. Was the price of your passenger’s Titanic ticket less than, greater than, or equal to the
    amount the average American would earn in an entire year? ____________________

2. Entertainment: Life on Board Titanic

Click here to research details about how your passenger passed time on Titanic. If your passenger was an infant, research the experiences of older children traveling in the same class.

1. My passenger traveled in _____ class.
2. Places where he/she may have played.
3. Games or toys he/she may have played with.

3. Cabins on Titanic

Click here to explore a diagram of Titanic to answer questions 1-4. Since there is no complete list of Titanic’s passengers and their cabin numbers, use the following rooms to answer the questions below. Click on the links below to answer question 5.

- First class: B66
- Second class: D68
- Third class: (E)118

1. My passenger traveled in _____ class.
2. Describe the sleeping arrangements in the room. How many beds?
3. Where is the nearest bathroom? In the room or down the hallway?
4. How close are you to a staircase? How easy is it for your passenger to find their way to
   the boat deck?
5. Use your imagination to describe the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings your
   passenger may have encountered in this room.
Topic: Children’s Experiences Traveling ______ Class on Titanic.

Introduction (Paragraph 1)
- Attention Grabbing Opening Sentence
- Introduce the Topic
- Thesis Statement

Introduce your Passenger (Paragraph 2)

Cabin Description (Paragraph 3)

Entertainment (Paragraph 4)

Conclusion
- Touch Back to the Topic:
- Heart:
- Zing!
5. Creative Response

Use the information from your essay to create a memorial for your passenger to be published on our online Titanic exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of Titanic’s sinking. This is your chance to be creative! I’ve listed a few ideas below, but do not feel that you have to choose something from this list. If you have an idea for a project that does not fit within one of those categories, please talk with me, and we’ll see if we can adapt it to fit onto our website. Your tribute should have a respectful tone and must be in one of the following formats: text, picture, audio, or video.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Ideas</th>
<th>Picture Ideas</th>
<th>Audio Ideas</th>
<th>Video Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use Microsoft Publisher to write original poems, journal entries, short stories, or plays.</td>
<td>Use Adobe Photoshop Elements to create original pieces of artwork. Use a digital camera to create an original photo essay or slideshow in PowerPoint.</td>
<td>Use Audacity to record yourself singing or playing a musical instrument.</td>
<td>Use a digital camera/camcorder and Windows Movie Maker to create and edit a mini-movie.</td>
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6. Final Thoughts

After you have had a chance to view our memorial website for Titanic’s children, what do you think about Expedition Titanic? Should they continue to remove artifacts from the Titanic and display them in museums and cities around the world? Or should the artifacts from Titanic be left on the wreck?