

Iceberg Ahead



Recommended year group: Year 6

Theme focus: Geography

Suggested term: Autumn

Theme introduction

Iceberg Ahead is a theme that is focused on learning about the events of the *Titanic* disaster and the geographical features of North America. Learning in this theme is focused on Geography but also includes History, Art, PSHE and Design and Technology. In Iceberg Ahead, we look at key figures who have changed the United States, such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama. Pupils will learn about the *Titanic* disaster and how the passengers were treated on board. They will learn about the California Gold Rush and how immigration into the country affected the people who were already there. Pupils will look at the key geographical features of the United States and learn which states are in which time zones. They will finish the theme by creating poems of hope for the future.

Driving Question

How does the movement of people affect places?

Switch on Science Unit

Year 6: The *Titanic*

Switch on Computing Unit

We are publishers

Linked reading texts

Voices of the Titanic: A Titanic Book for Kids by Mary Montero

Escaping Titanic: A young girl's true story of survival by Marybeth Lorbiecki

The Story of the Titanic for Children by Joe Fullman

Writing Outcomes

Narrative poems on the theme of shipwreck

Own poem to tell the events of the *Titanic* sinking based on poems such as *Titanic Remembers* by Irene Latham and *Shipwreck* by Chrissie Pinney.

Diary entries

Role play *Titanic* passengers, and write a diary entry in role for a living museum.

Newspaper reports

In role as a journalist to report the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Curriculum Coverage

History – Cause and consequence, historical enquiry and sources, significant individuals

DT – Evaluate: impact

Geography – Location and maps, direction, human geography, similarities and differences, wider world, physical geography, environment

PSHE – Wider world, relationships

Art – 3D/sculpture, developing ideas, painting, colour

Excite

'Welcome on board the *Titanic*.' Transform the classroom into the *Titanic* dining halls. You could split the class into first-, second- and third-class dining halls. Pupils could come dressed in role as a passenger on board.

Explore

There are fourteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: The sinking of the *Titanic*

Explore 2: Finding the *Titanic*

Explore 3: Why was the *Titanic* so significant?

Explore 4: The route of the *Titanic*

Explore 5: Wellbeing – Who was on board?

Explore 6: Coming to America

Explore 7: Immigration

Explore 8: Native Americans

Explore 9: States of the USA

Explore 10: American time zones

Explore 11: The Mississippi River

Explore 12: The Golden Gate Bridge

Explore 13: Tourism and national parks

Explore 14: People that changed the United States

Theme essential vocabulary:

change, class, colony, culture, environment, hope, immigration, impact, latitude, longitude, migration, native, passenger, president, Prime Meridian, sank, state, time zone, *Titanic*, trade, transatlantic, tourism, wreck

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. The *Titanic* sank on 15th April 1912.
2. The *Titanic* was built in Belfast.
3. She set sail on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on 10th April 1912.
4. The wreck of the *Titanic* was first found by a man named Robert Ballard in 1985.
5. There were many contributing factors to why the *Titanic* disaster caused a great loss of life, including the lack of lifeboats on board.
6. There were many contributing factors to why the *Titanic* sank so quickly, including a lack of communication.
7. The California Gold Rush started in 1848.
8. The most famous Gold Rush took place in California; however, there were others across the United States.
9. Immigration is when a person leaves one country to settle in another one permanently.
10. The US has 50 states of which 13 were original colonies. These are Delaware, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Georgia.
11. The US has six time zones spanning the country. The country has times that are behind the time in the UK.
12. The Mississippi River runs from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico and is the fourth longest river in the world.
13. An American national park is a place of conservation, where animals and habitats are protected. These parks include the Yellowstone National Park, Death Valley, the Everglades and the Grand Canyon.
14. People in American history have changed the country over time and made significant impact. These people include George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 2: Finding the *Titanic*: diary entry

Explore 6: Coming to America: panning for gold investigation

Explore 9: States of the USA: state maps created

Explore 14: People who changed the United States: poems written

Exhibit

Iceberg Ahead themed exhibit. Pupils to showcase their work on the *Titanic* disaster and the artwork and maps that they have created on North America.

Possible wider experiences:

Pupils to visit one of the *Titanic* exhibitions. They can be located in these places:

Belfast: <https://titanicbelfast.com>

Southampton: <https://seacitymuseum.co.uk/titanic-story>

London:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/titanic-our-collection>

Liverpool:

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatson/merseyside-maritime-museum/exhibition/titanic-and-liverpool-untold-story>

Flipped learning opportunities

1. Research some of the key cities of the United States, e.g. New York, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, San Francisco.
2. Research more information on the *Titanic* – were any of the parts built in England? (e.g. the anchor)

Family learning suggestion

Create a model of the *Titanic*.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

What A Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong

Winter – Vivaldi

Let It Be – The Beatles

Key piece of art

Winged Victory of Samothrace (Sculpture – Louvre)

Key poem

Warned – Sylvia Stults