



# TITANIC

I9

I2

## Learning Objective:

To identify different types of historical source and determine their reliability.



NEXT

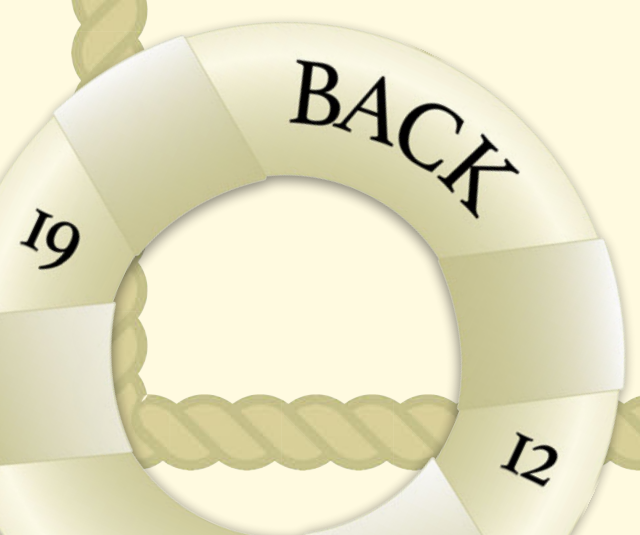
I2

I9

Discuss this question with your partner:



How do we know  
what happened to the  
Titanic?



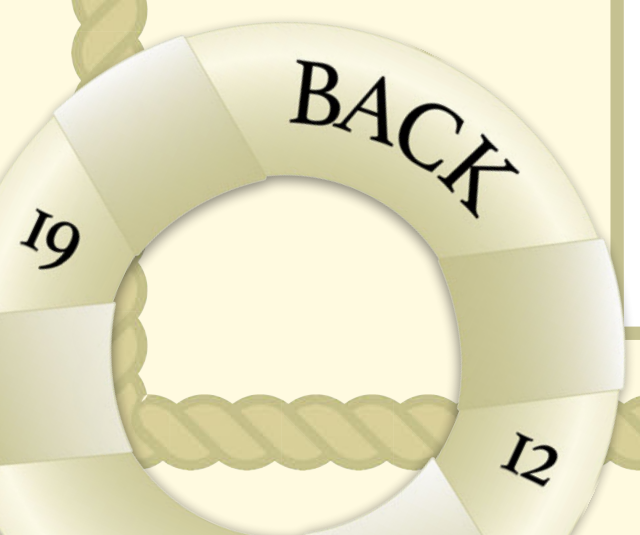


# What are some different sources of information we could use?



Did you think of any of these?

- Survivors' accounts
- Documentaries about the Titanic
- Artefacts retrieved from the wreck of the Titanic
- Reports made after officials investigated the disaster
- Newspaper reports from the days following the disaster
- Investigating the wreck of the Titanic
- Books about the Titanic
- Photographs taken of the Titanic
- Internet sources e.g. websites and pictures
- Filmed footage of the Titanic
- Talking to experts on the Titanic

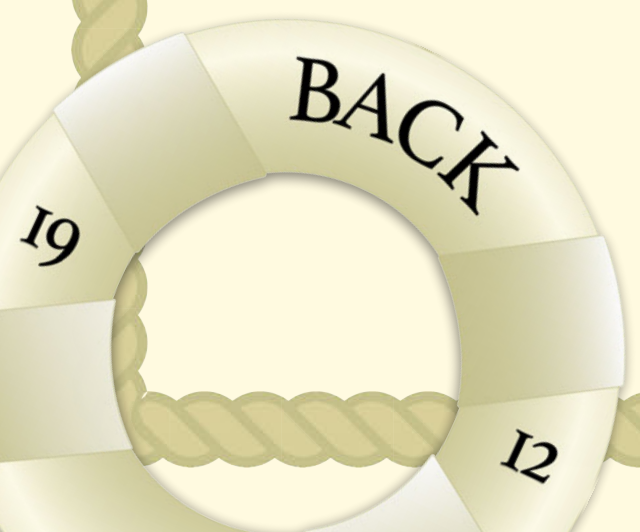




Sources of information need to be reliable in order for them to be useful. How could you check if a source is reliable?



Do you know the difference between a primary and a secondary source of information?





A primary source of information is an original piece of evidence from a period in history. It was made during the time period being studied.

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**WHITE STAR LINE.**  
ROYAL AND UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

Male Berth.....  
Female Berth.....  
Married Berth.....

ISMAY, IMRIE & CO.  
1, COCKSPUR STREET, E.C.  
LONDON  
30 JAMES STREET  
LIVERPOOL  
AND  
CANUTE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

Agent at PARIS -  
NICHOLAS MARTIN, 9 Rue Scribe

**WHITE STAR LINE.**  
ITALY: GENOA - NAPLES -  
31, MAZZA DELLA BORRA -  
34, STATE STREET -  
3, BROADWAY - NEW YORK  
31, DELAWARE STREET -  
MONTREAL  
118, NOTRE DAME STREET WEST  
JAMES SCOTT & CO. Agents  
QUEBEC

**SHIR. M.S. TITANIC**  
Contract of Cabin Passenger's Ticket

**CONTRACT TICKET**  
I engage that the Person mentioned herein shall be provided with Passage to NEW YORK, and to be landed at the Port of NEW YORK, in the ship.....

**OCEANIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED, OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**THIRD CLASS (STEERAGE) PASSENGER'S CONTRACT TICKET.**  
(NOT TRANSFERABLE)

1. A Contract Ticket in this form shall be given to every person engaging a passage as a First Class Passenger in any ship proceeding from the British Isles to any Port out of Europe, and shall include the return passage for the passenger or his dependants, and shall be valid for the return passage only, and shall be subject to the conditions of the contract printed on the back of the ticket.  
2. The ticket shall be given to the passenger or his dependants, and shall be subject to the conditions of the contract printed on the back of the ticket.  
3. The ticket shall be given to the passenger or his dependants, and shall be subject to the conditions of the contract printed on the back of the ticket.  
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7. A Contract Ticket in this form shall be given to every person engaging a passage as a First Class Passenger in any ship proceeding from the British Isles to any Port out of Europe, and shall include the return passage for the passenger or his dependants, and shall be valid for the return passage only, and shall be subject to the conditions of the contract printed on the back of the ticket.

SHIP **R.M.S. TITANIC** of **45,000** Tons Register.  
to take Passengers at **LIVERPOOL** for **NEW YORK**.  
on the **10** day of **APRIL** **1912**

NAME	AGE	Sex	Initials
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Deposit £.....  
Balance £.....  
Total £.....

**BILL OF FARE**  
Passage, Food, and other charges, as per Bill of Fare, to be paid by the passenger or his dependants, and shall be subject to the conditions of the contract printed on the back of the ticket.

**JOSEPH BRUCE ISMAY.**  
Managing Director

An example of a primary source would be a ticket made for a passenger of the Titanic or an eyewitness account of events from someone who was there.



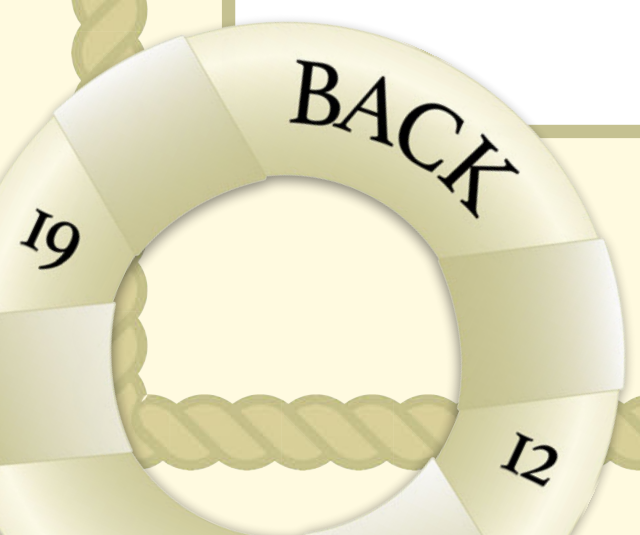


A secondary source of information is recounted or described from another's view. They offer someone's interpretation of a primary resource.



An example of a secondary source would be a documentary about the Titanic or a non-fiction book with facts and information about the Titanic in it.

Which type of source do you think would be more reliable?





Have a look at the sources you came up with earlier.

How many of the sources are primary sources?

Which sources do you think would be most reliable?

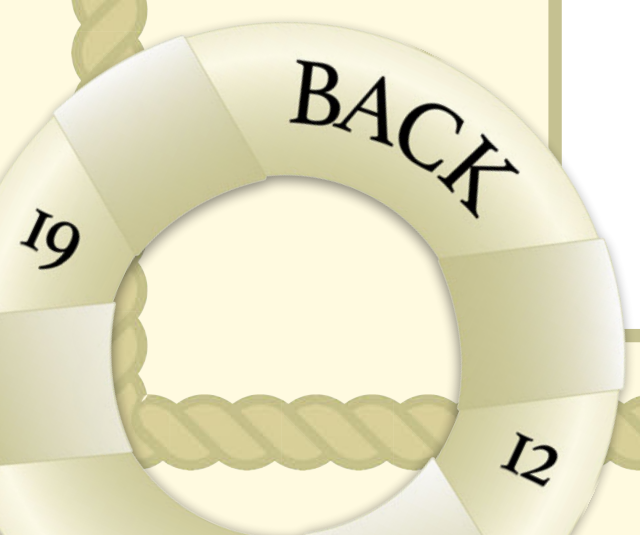
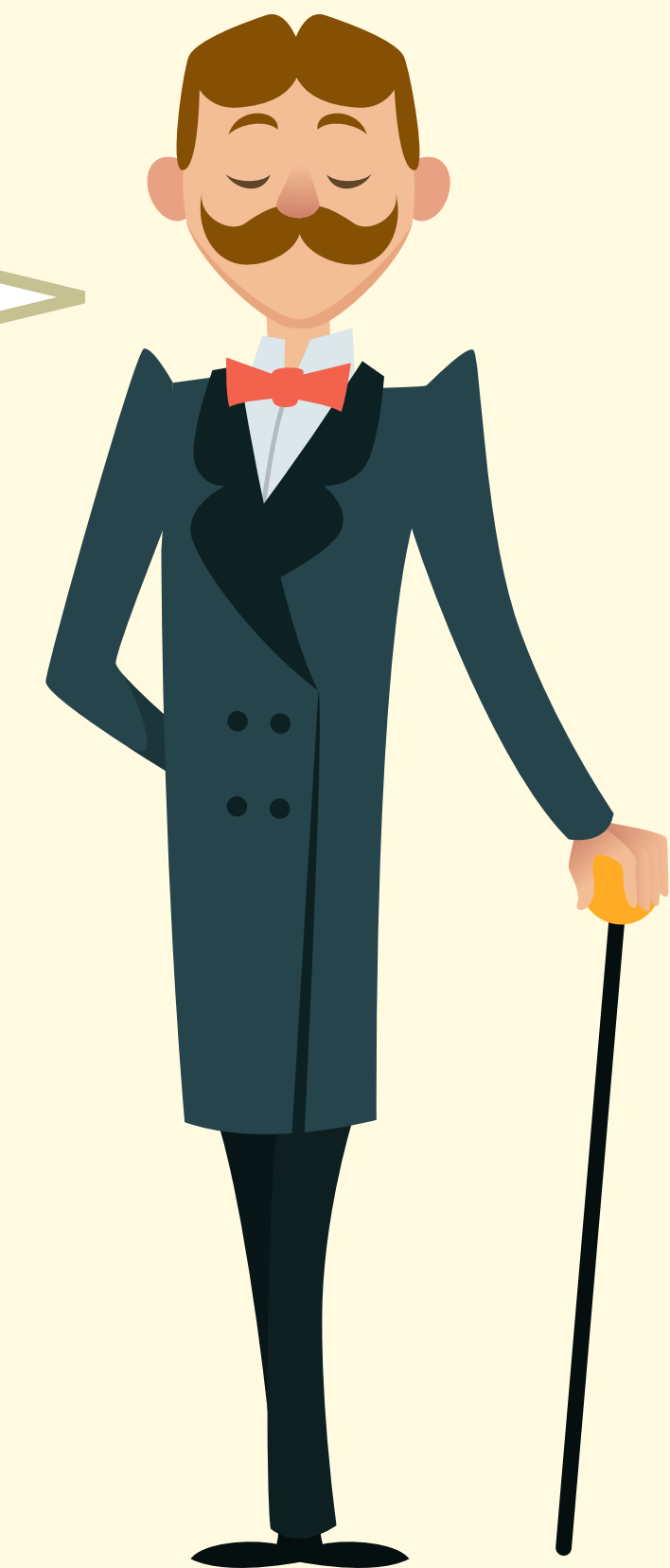
Which do you think would be the least reliable?





Survivor stories were a key part of piecing together the story of the Titanic and the night she sank. Officials in America used statements from the crew members who survived to create a picture of what happened in the lead up to and after the ship hit the iceberg.

Due to the nature of the incident, and losing so many lives, many survivors found it very difficult to talk about the night the ship sank. Others, like Dr. Dodge, immediately wrote a recount of his experience when he was aboard the Carpathia. An extract from his recount is on the next slide. What kind of source is this and how reliable do you think it is?



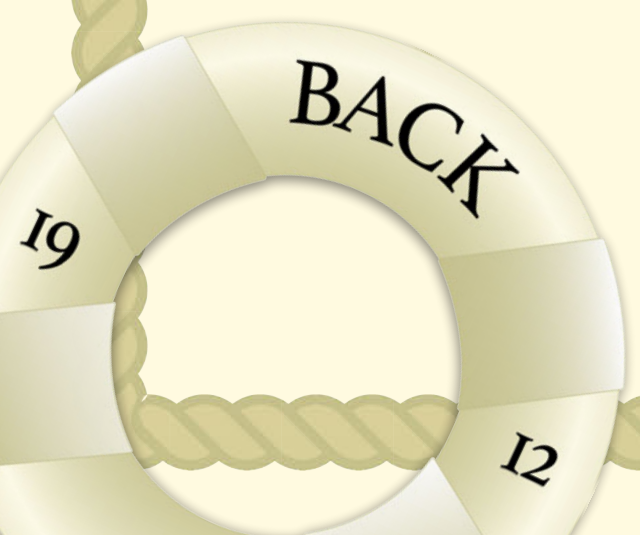


“Many [passengers] expressed their determination to take their chances with the steamer rather than embark in the lifeboats. This unusual circumstance may be accounted for by the fact that the officers had insisted that under the worst conditions possible the Titanic could not sink in less than eight or ten hours, and that a number of steamers had been communicated with by wireless and would be standing by to offer relief within an hour or two.

“I watched all boats on the starboard side, comprising the odd numbers from 1 to 13 as they were launched. Not a boat was launched which could not have held from ten to twenty five more persons. [...]”  
“Any impression which I had had that there were no survivors aboard [the Titanic] was speedily removed from my mind by the faint, yet distinct cries which were wafted across the waters. Some there were in our boat who insisted that these cries came from occupants of the different lifeboats which were nearer the scene of the wreck than we were, as they called one to another. To my ear, however, they had but one meaning, and the awful fact was borne in upon me that many lives were perishing in those icy waters.”



What information can you find out from this account?





Artefacts from the Titanic have been studied and collected by experts over the past 100 years. Some were carried by survivors of the disaster as they left the ship, others have been retrieved from the wreckage of the ship.

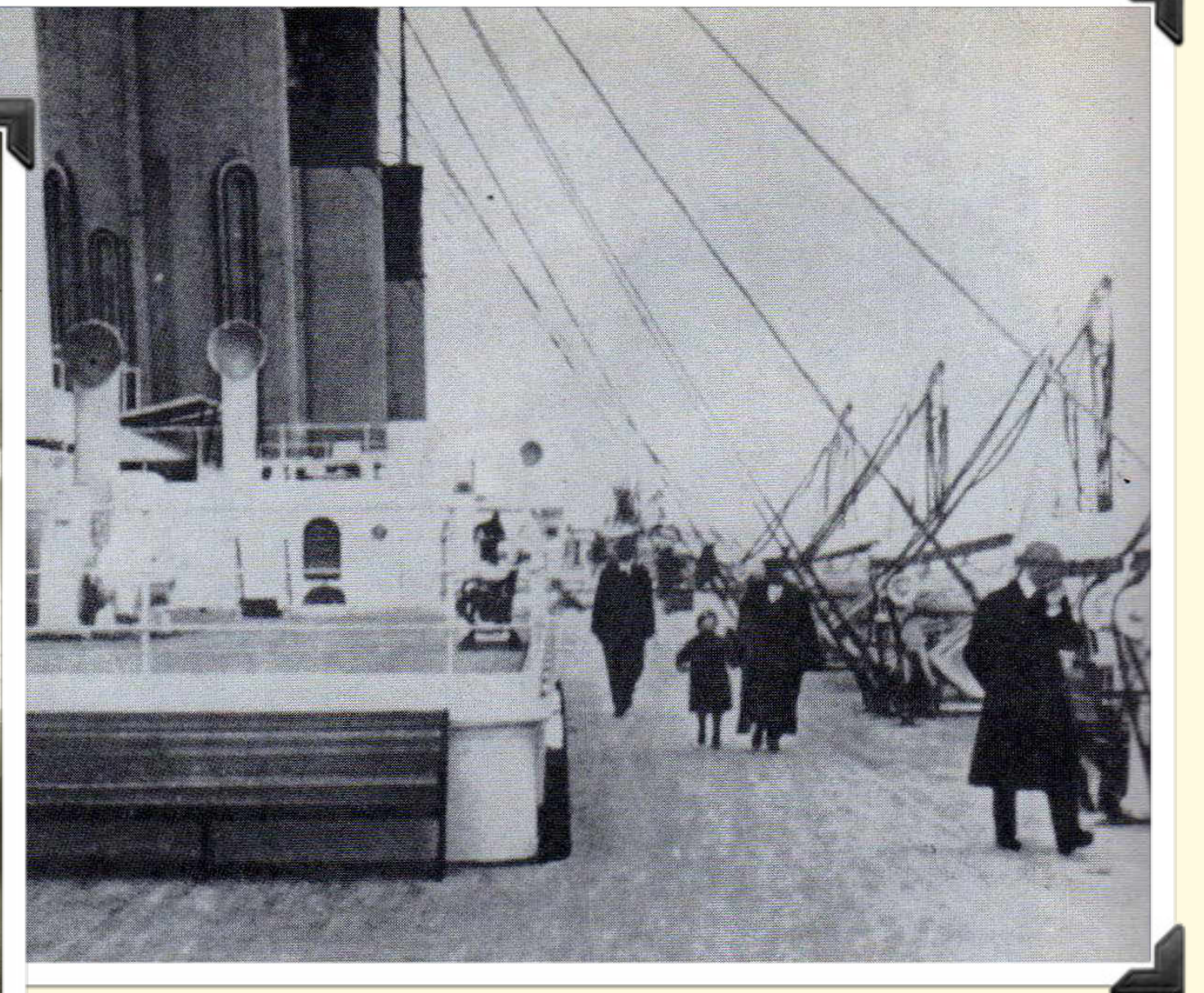


This fob watch was retrieved from an unknown passenger who had fallen into the water. What kind of source is this? What can it tell us about the sinking of the Titanic?

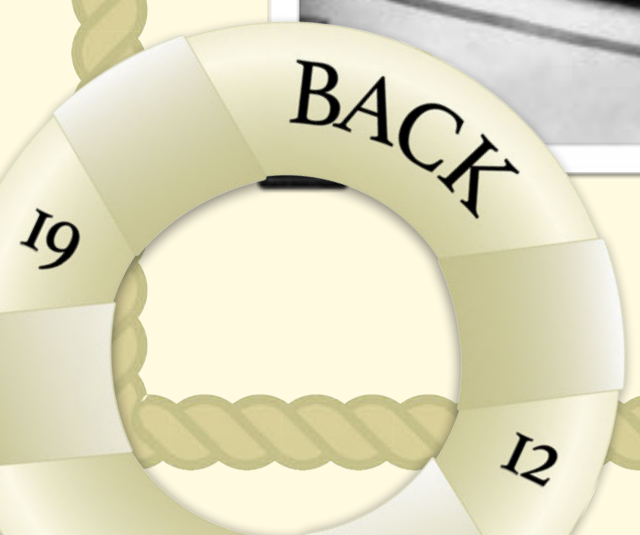




Photographs provide a glimpse into the past. Many photographs were taken of the Titanic to record the luxury that the passengers could expect when travelling on this special vessel.



What do these sources tell you about the Titanic?



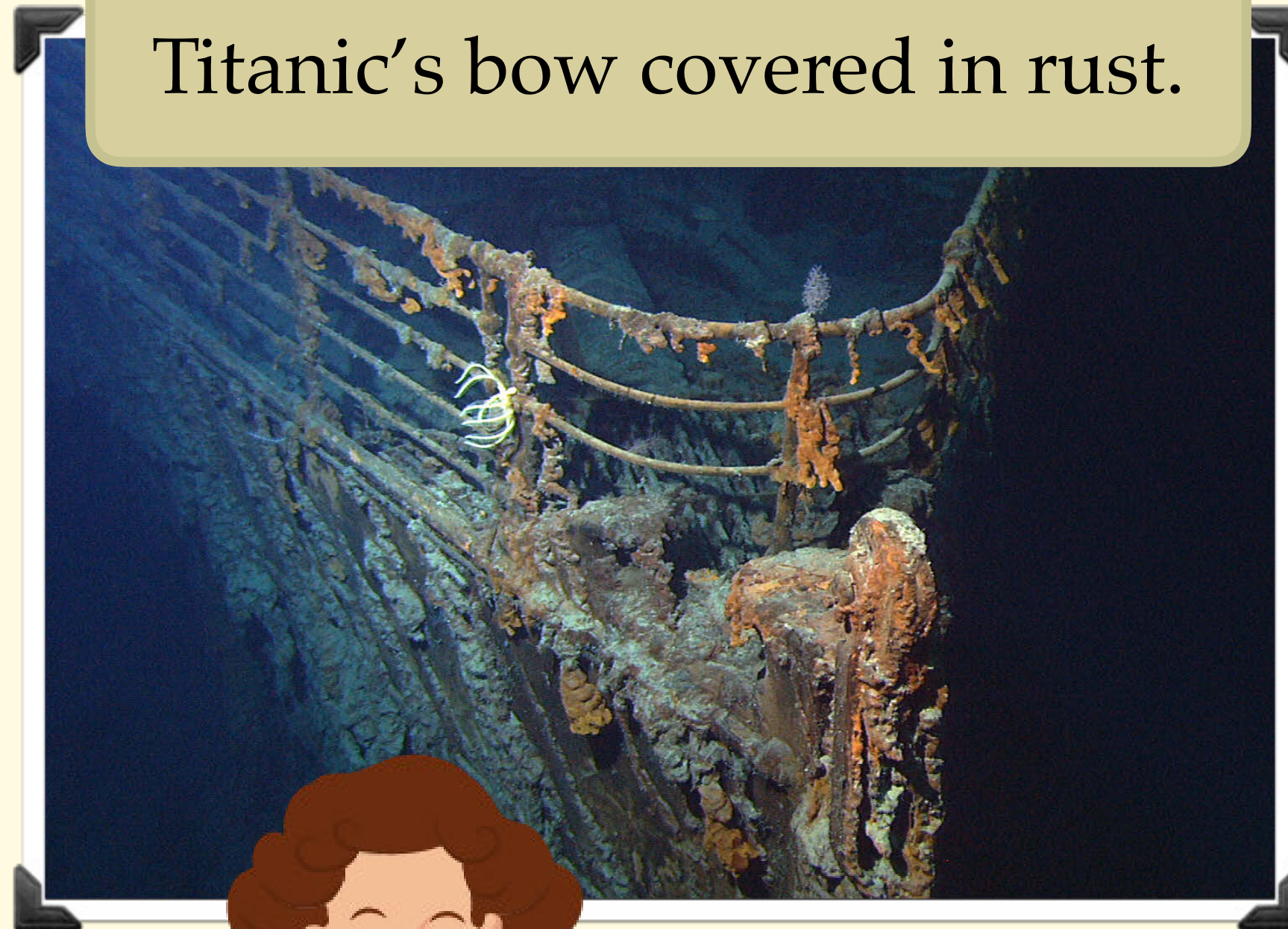


The Titanic's wreck was discovered in 1985 almost 22 km away from her last reported co-ordinates, approximately 2,000 km away from New York. Documentaries have been made about the discovery, detailing how the ship may have broken apart as she sank, based on what they found at the wreckage.

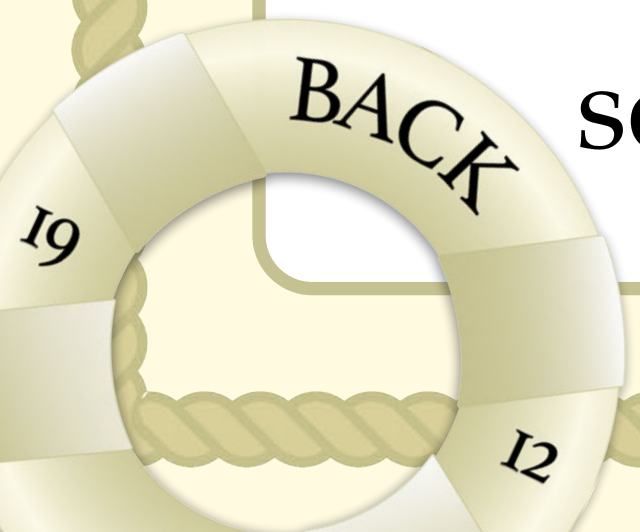
In the days following the disaster, the investigation reported that the Titanic sank in one piece. This was proved untrue by exploring how the ship's wreck was found on the sea bed.

What kind of historical source is this?

Titanic's bow covered in rust.



Captain Smith's bathroom.





Newspapers written in the days following the disaster provide us with valuable information. These are primary resources as they were written during the time of the disaster. How reliable do you think these sources are? Look at the dates they were written on. How does this change the information they're giving? What does this tell you?







How do you think people reacted to these stories?





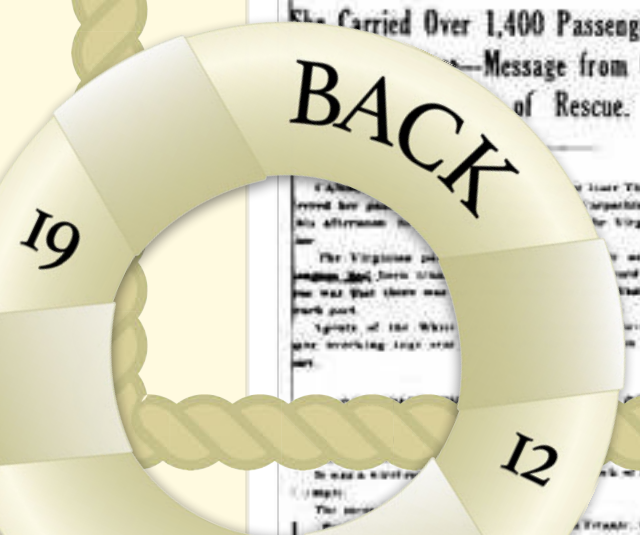


Newspapers printed on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, the day the Titanic sank.

Newspaper reporters knew that this was huge news and wanted to be the first to report it, even if that meant reporting 'facts' that hadn't been confirmed yet. This would mean more people would buy their newspaper to gain more information. Remember, there was no internet to tell people instantly about the disaster.



The story of the Titanic spread quickly around the world. People were desperate for more information, especially those who had family and loved ones aboard the Titanic.





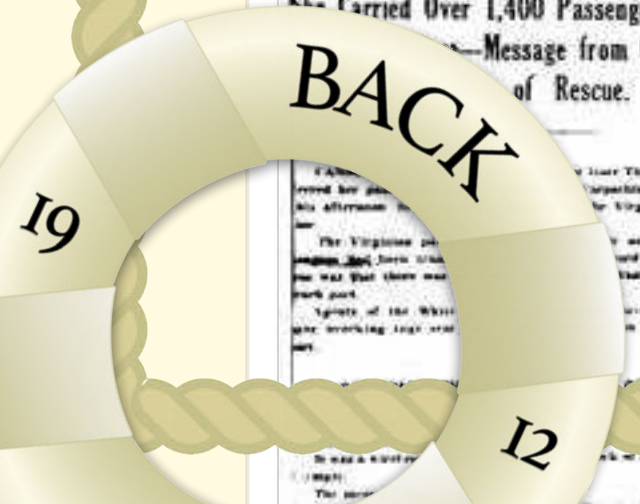


Newspapers printed on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, the day the Titanic sank.

This reporting of news which isn't true still happens today! Newspapers or online reporters want more people to read their work, so they may report stories about photoshopped images or things which haven't actually happened.



As historians, think about how you could check if a historical source is reliable. How could you use these same skills to check if a newspaper report was fake or not?



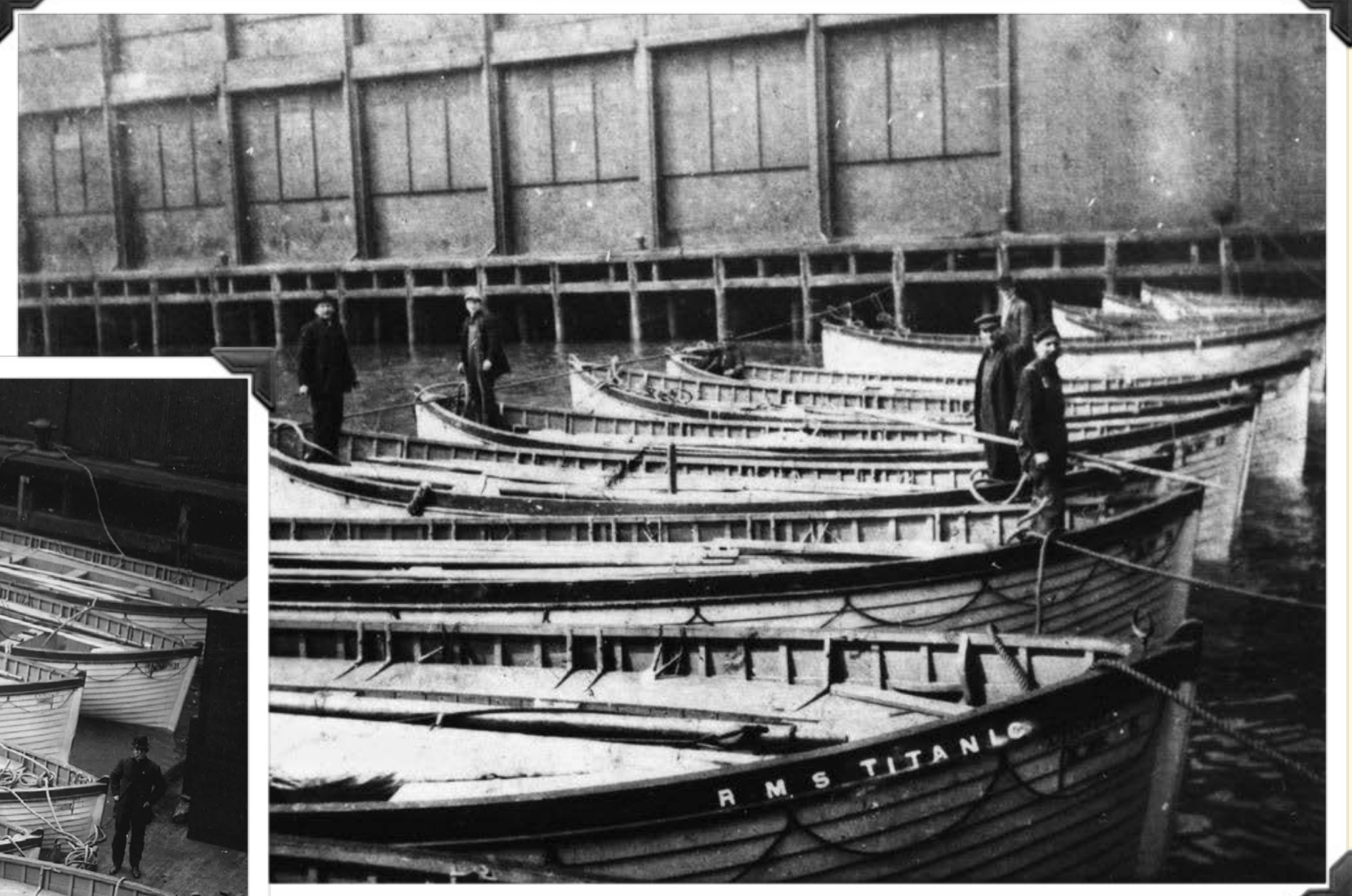
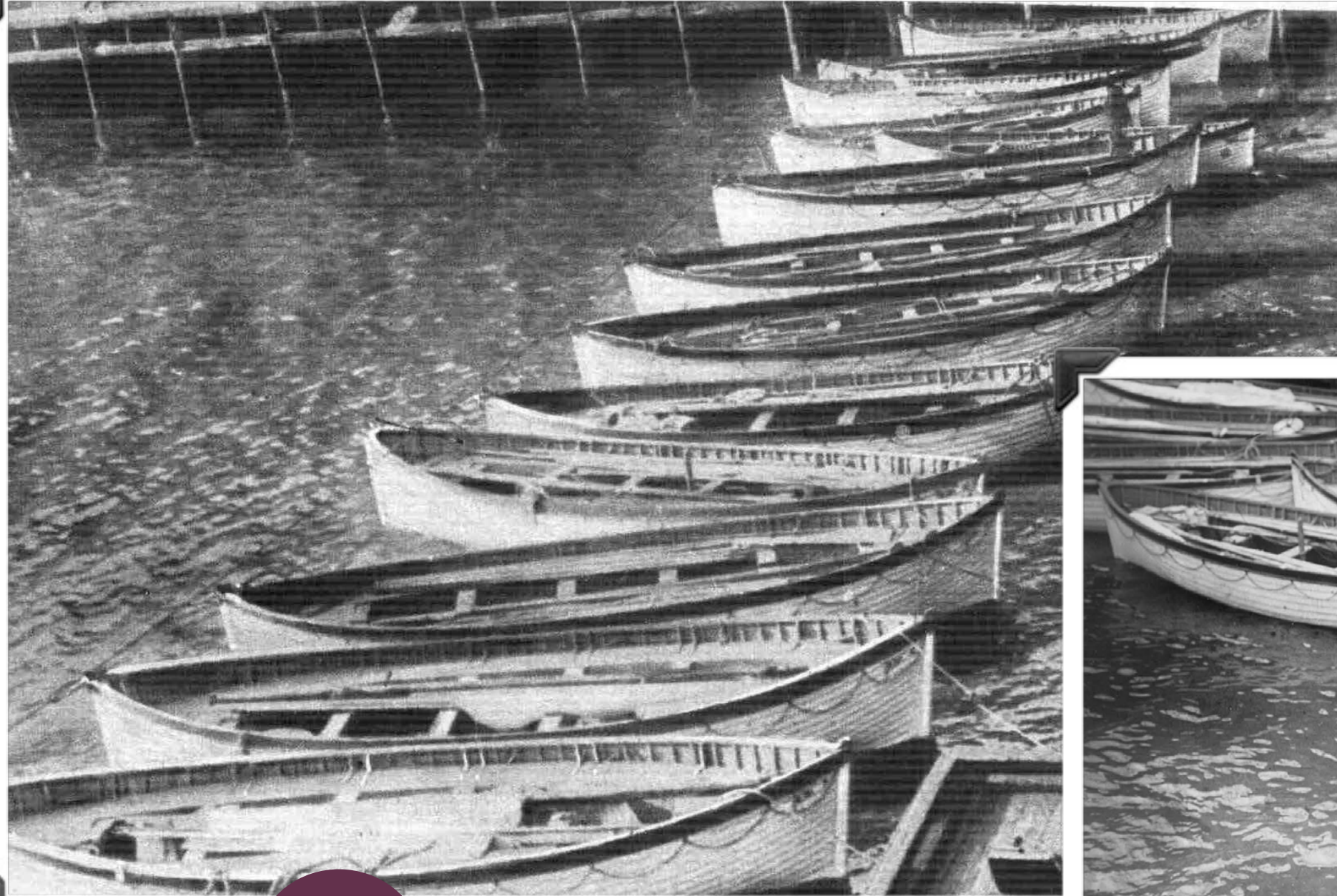


To check a source is reliable or true, the best option is to look at other sources as well. If they are reporting or showing the same information, then you can say the source is reliable. If there are some differences between them, you might need to do a little more research and look at a wider range of sources to find the right information.

Remember, images can be changed to suit the purpose of the report. Let's look at an image from the Titanic.



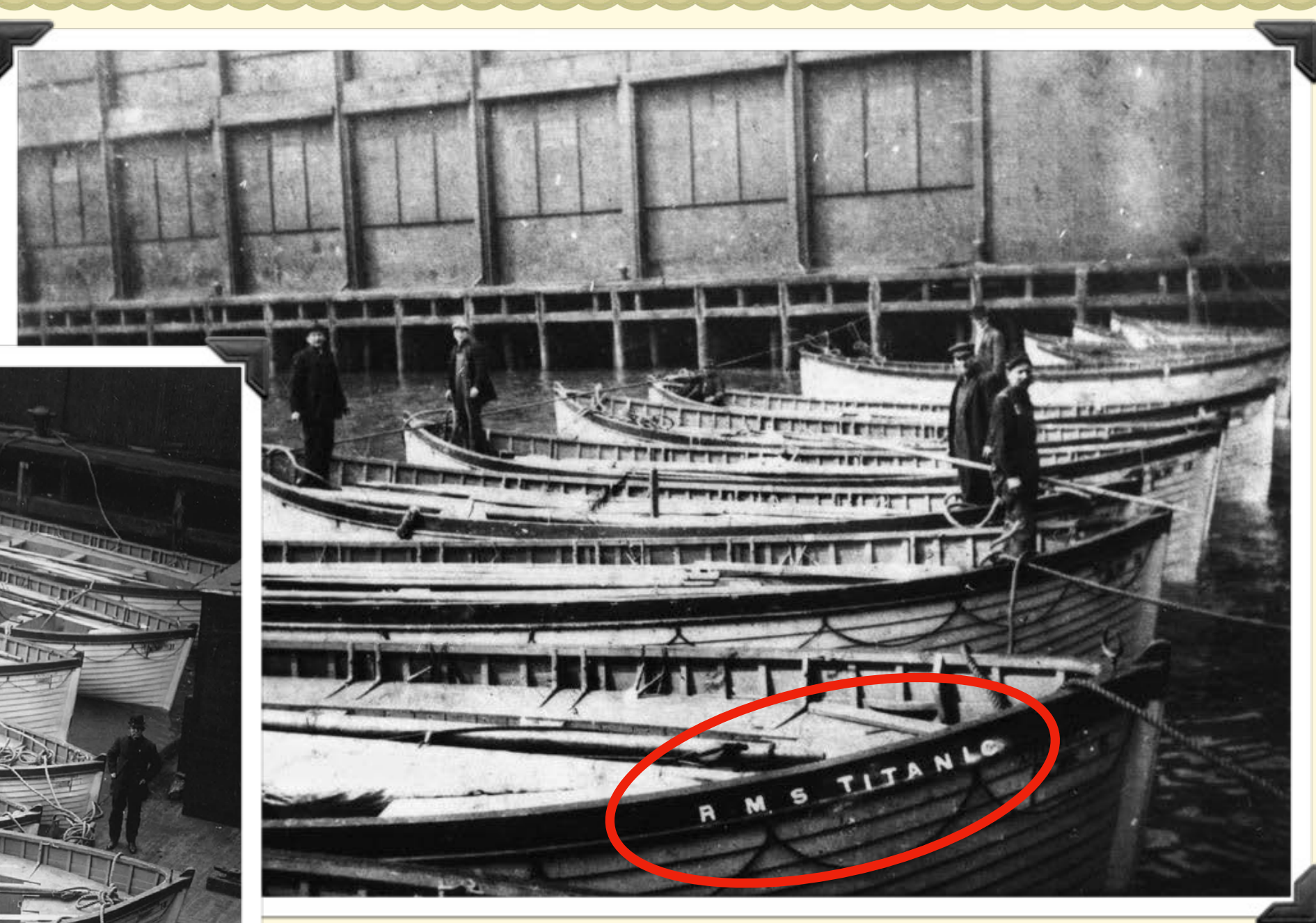
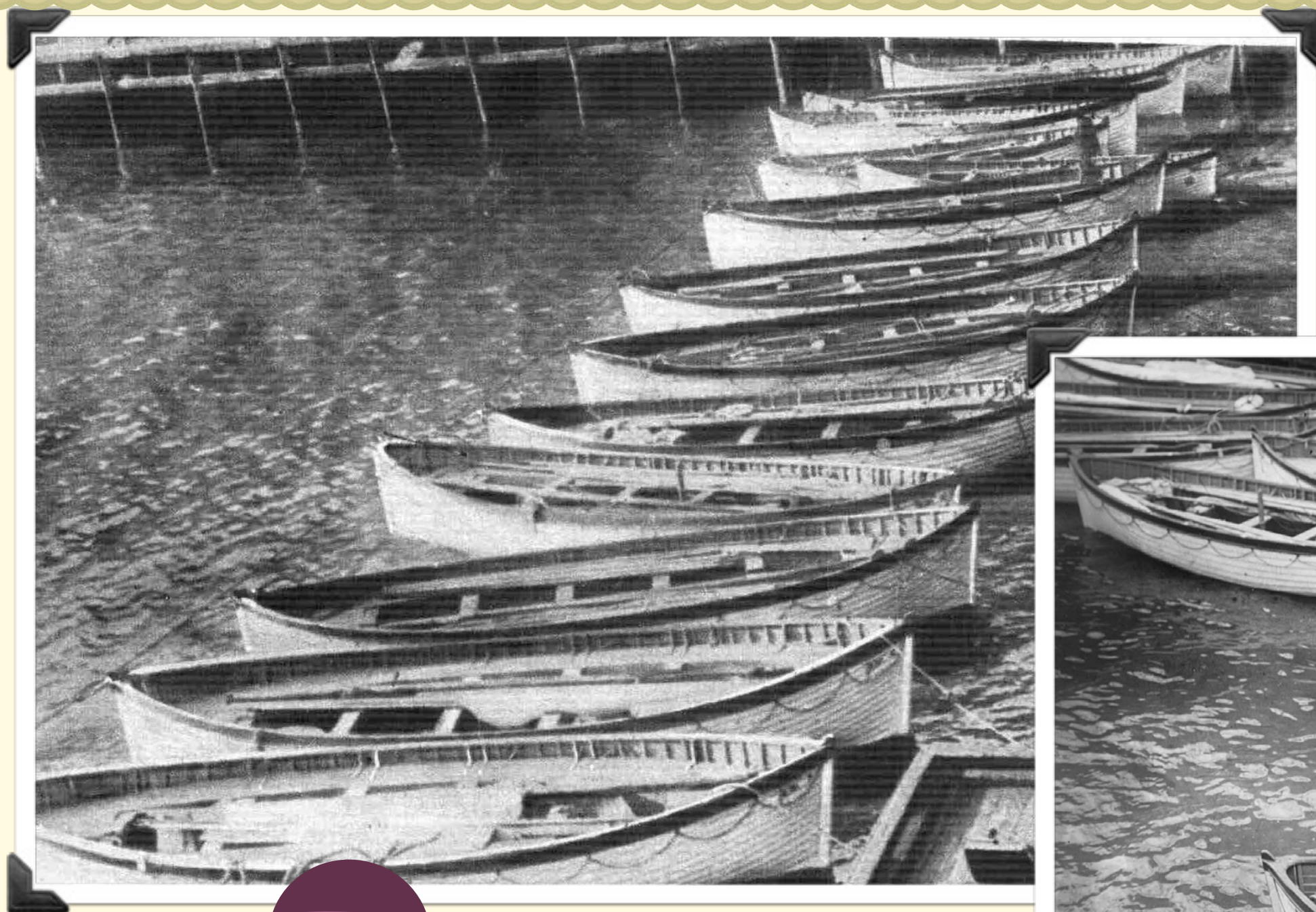




Here are three picture of Titanic's lifeboats saved by the Carpathia after the sinking. What do you notice?







One of the pictures has been edited to show the Titanic's name plate on the side of the boat. Looking at the other photographs, and even the other boats in the same picture, you can confirm that they did not have the name plate on them.





Plenary

Think, pair, share...

What answer would you give to this question now?



How do we know what happened to the Titanic?

