Why did the Titanic Sink?

"We have struck iceberg ... sinking fast ... come to our assistance."

The ship was doomed and it was slowly sliding into its watery grave. But why did the largest, most advanced ship of the century sink?

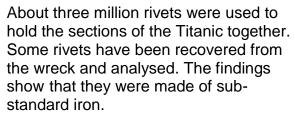
It was Captain Smith's fault



This was Captain E.J. Smith's retirement trip. All he had to do was get to New York in record time. Captain E.J. Smith said years before the Titanic's voyage, "I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a ship to founder. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that."

Captain Smith ignored seven iceberg warnings from his crew and other ships. If he had called for the ship to slow down then maybe the Titanic disaster would not have happened.

It was the shipbuilder's fault





When the ship hit the iceberg, the force of the impact caused the heads of the rivets to break and the sections of the Titanic to come apart. If good quality iron rivets had been used the sections may have stayed together and the ship may not have sunk.

It was Bruce Ismay's fault



Bruce Ismay was the managing director of the White Star Line and he was aboard the Titanic. Competition for Atlantic passengers was fierce and the White Star Line wanted to show that they could make a six-day crossing.

To meet this schedule the Titanic could not afford to slow down. It is believed that Ismay put pressure on Captain Smith to maintain the speed of the ship.

It was Thomas Andrew's fault

The belief that the ship was unsinkable was, in part, due to the fact that the Titanic had sixteen watertight compartments. However, the compartments did not reach as high as they should have done.



The White Star Line did not want them to go all the way up because this would have reduced living space in first class. If Mr Andrews had insisted on making them the correct height then maybe the Titanic would not have sunk.

Na	me	Date	Period	Rotation _ <u>PINK</u>
Answer the following questions in complete sentences.				
1. —	Why was Captain Smith to blame for the (sentence starter: Captain Smith was to bla			ecause)
2.	Why were the shipbuilders Harland and (sentence starter: The shipbuilders Harland and Wo			
3.	Why was Bruce Ismay to blame fo	r the sinking of t	he Titanic?	
4. —	Why was Mr. Andrews to blame for the	sinking of the Titan	ic?	
5.	Do you think Captain Smith was past his (sentence starter: Captain Smith was/was)			answer.
6.	What evidence suggests that money wa	s key factor in the	Titanic disaste	er?
7.	Using evidence on this sheet, who do yo Explain your answer.	ou think was to blar	me for the sinl	king of the Titanic?

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