

Mantle of the Expert W/B 15/06/2020 and W/B 22/06/2020 (Two weeks work)

Theme:

Titanic

Inquiry Question-

'What might the Titanic disaster tell us about changes in attitudes towards life and people's place in society and how these have changed since 1912?

Expert Team (YOU!):

Marine archaeologists

Client:

The British Museum

Commission:

You are going to explore the wreck, as sensitively as possible, and find personal objects that can be used in an exhibition to tell the forgotten stories of those who were involved in the disaster. You must also research/identify costs: to include salaries, insurance, equipment hire, exhibition set up costs (premises, staff, security, entertainment, food and drink etc.)

Context:

A team of marine archaeologists, with a long history of exploring and studying shipwrecks, are far out at sea, onboard their specially equipped research ship, two miles above the wreck of the RMS Titanic.

After an initial exploratory dive, using unmanned submersibles, the team make a final check of their equipment and discuss the operational parameters of their mission.

Under commission from the British Museum, the team's objective is to explore the wreck, as sensitively as possible, and to find personal objects that can be used in an exhibition to tell the forgotten stories of those who were involved in the disaster.

You will need to find out about the following when completing your commission:-

- The disaster – the events surrounding the sinking: the iceberg, the captain, the crew, the band, the SOS, the lack of life-boats, ‘women and children first’, and passengers.
- Events leading up to the disaster – the speed of the ship (trying to break the record), the unusually low path of the iceberg, the lack of binoculars, and the unawareness of the passengers.
- Events after the disaster – the time it took for other ships to arrive, people pulled from the sea, what happened to the people who survived, how was the disaster reported, the inquiry, and responsibility.
- The ship - its construction, size, fixtures and fittings, design, statistics, and different decks for different classes of passenger

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR INQUIRY

Social: How was life onboard the Titanic and the disaster affected by class and social attitudes?

Political: What effect did wealth, influence and social attitudes have regarding the consequences of the disaster and the subsequent inquest?

Historical: How can we learn about the sinking of the Titanic and life in 1912 by studying historical artefacts from the wreck?

Environmental: What effects did the especially cold weather and the unusual ice-flow have of the disaster?

Critical: Could the disaster have been avoided? Was anyone to blame?

Ethical: Is it ethical to take artefacts from the wreck of the Titanic? Should these objects be considered the property of the victim's families?

Philosophical: To what extent was the Titanic disaster the result of hubris (excessive pride or self-confidence)?

Spiritual: Should the wreck of the Titanic be considered a gravesite? What are your (marine archaeologists) responsibilities to the dead?

TEAM MARINE ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Powers:

- Decide on the use of equipment, times for diving and how long, whether it is safe to dive (especially in regards to the weather), and how the job should be done (organising: time, layout, order, etc).
- Influence: how the artefacts are displayed, how they will tell the story of the ship, and how the relatives of those who died and survived should be involved in the project.

Responsibilities:

- To the careful preservation of the artefacts and the wreck, the memory of those people who died in the disaster, the facts and the accuracy of the history, the careful maintenance of the equipment, and the safety of other members of the Team.

Values:

- To preserve and protect marine archaeology, educate and inform, make maritime archaeology more accessible to the general public

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO PRESENT YOUR COMMISSION HOWEVER YOU WANT TO BUT PLEASE TRY TO BE AS THOROUGH AND AS CREATIVE AS POSSIBLE- REMEMBER IT WILL RUN OVER TWO WEEKS!

THIS MANTLE COMMISSION COVERS A RANGE OF CURRICULUM AREAS- HAVE FUN AND LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, WE'RE HERE TO HELP 😊