TITANIC
THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

154 Real Titanic Artifacts
Countless Stories
Unforgettable Lessons

FIELD TRIP GUIDE
Oct. 21, 2023 - April 15, 2024

1 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

• Top priority: Stay with your assigned group of students throughout your visit. Monitor your students and keep them focused.

• Stress the importance of respecting the museum staff and fellow visitors.

• Please reinforce basic rules of museum etiquette.
  • Keep voices low.
  • Do not gather around and/or block entrances or exits to the galleries.
  • Do not lean against walls.
  • Walk, do not run.

• Students should not lean on the glass cases or walls to write notes. Students should use a notebook or clipboard for notetaking.

• Encourage students to ask questions and seek clarification.

• Please supervise your students in the retail area and in the restrooms.

• Continue to monitor students to ensure respectful behavior in each of the museum galleries and around the artifacts.

• Prompt students with questions to encourage exhibition engagement.
CONSTRUCTION GALLERY

Learn about the conception and design of the Olympic Class liners, including RMS Olympic, Titanic, and Britannic. Understand Titanic’s construction at Harland & Wolff Shipyard in Belfast, Ireland (present day Northern Ireland). Meet key leaders involved with Titanic, view photographs of the workers who built the Ship, and see tools and pieces of 1912’s largest liner.

🌟 Artifact stop: Rivets (There were 3 million of these used on Titanic to hold its steel plates together.)

Reflective Questions:
- What would it have been like to work in the shipyard that built Titanic?
- Would you have preferred to be a worker in the shipyard who put in the rivets or be a supervisor like managing director Thomas Andrews? Why?

PASSENGER GALLERY

With 2,208 souls onboard—and 154 artifacts on display—Titanic has numerous stories to share. Bring to light some of these unforgettable accounts of why people traveled, their hopes and dreams, and the overall impact Titanic had on them and their families. Honor their legacy by learning their stories. Discover re-created cabins of both first and third class and the differences in luxury between them.

🌟 Artifact stop: Gillette razor (This new disposable safety razor design had only been on the market for a decade, a useful choice for men’s shaving needs on Titanic.) Hand mirror inscribed “Royale Ivoire France” (Plastic toiletry items were popular as newly invented plastic inexpensively imitated luxury wares.) Third-class plate (Three nutritious meals a day on board Titanic would have been a luxury for many third-class passengers.)

Reflective Questions:
- Based on the class of your boarding card passenger, what are at least two artifacts that you could have packed if you were on board Titanic?
- Which passenger story and/or artifact do you feel best tells the story of Titanic? Why?
- Compare and contrast the “luxuries” of each of the three classes on board Titanic.

ICEBERG GALLERY

Place your hand on the iceberg and experience the extreme chill of the North Atlantic. Discover why the 28°F water did not freeze. Understand the fateful events of April 14-15, 1912, by reading some first-hand accounts from survivors.
1. What do you know about Titanic? (Movie, construction, life onboard, passengers, myths, wreck site, artifact conservation, modern cruising)

2. Where have you learned this information about Titanic? (Primary vs. secondary sources)

3. What is an artifact? (An object important to history and/or culture)

1. As you walk through the Exhibition, how is the story of Titanic organized? (Chronological order of Titanic’s building, sailing, and sinking)

2. Why is it important that people don’t use flash photography in the Exhibition? (Conservation of the artifacts)

3. How do the labels on each of the artifacts help tell the story of Titanic? (Organization/cataloging/stewardship/care of each item)

1. What are at least three Titanic questions you have based on today’s visit? Where could you look to answer these questions?

2. An Irish philosopher once said, “We are all passengers on Titanic.” After visiting today, do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

3. If you could choose to be any passenger, officer, or crew member, who would you choose to be if boarding Titanic? Why?
What is a submersible?
A submersible is an underwater vehicle used for deep-sea research, transported and supported by a larger ship or platform, such as the Nautil and MIR. It accommodates three people—a pilot, a co-pilot, and an observer—who each have a 1-foot thick plastic porthole between them and the depths. With a 110-foot tether, submersibles can deploy and operate a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, to record images inside the wreck.

How long does it take to reach Titanic?
It takes over two and a half hours to reach the Titanic wreck site. Each dive lasts about 12 to 15 hours with an additional two hours to ascend to the surface.

How are these artifacts recovered from Titanic?
Submersibles recover artifacts from the ocean floor by using mechanical arms to scoop and grasp objects. These objects are then either collected in sampling baskets or placed in lifting baskets and brought back to the larger ship.

How are the artifacts conserved?
Conservation begins the moment the artifacts are recovered. Artifacts are cleaned of mud and dirt and placed in foam-lined tubs of water. Artifacts stay submerged in water while salts are leached out from the materials in a process called desalination. Electrolysis is also used to remove salts from some metal artifacts. Once the artifacts are no longer leaching salt, they are dried out. Chemical and mechanical treatments are used to remove agents of deterioration, such as fungus and rust. Protective wax coatings can be applied to metals. Some sensitive materials, such as leather, can be treated with chemicals to keep them from becoming brittle or deteriorating. Conserved artifacts are carefully monitored and maintained in a controlled environment with stable temperature, humidity, and light levels by trained professionals to keep the artifacts safe for the future.