

CONTENTS

Chapter 1 | Introduction. 4

Chapter 2 | *Titanic* 12

Chapter 3 | Ferry Disasters 26

Chapter 4 | Sydney to Hobart. 38

Chapter 5 | War and Military 48

Chapter 6 | *Prestige* Oil Spill 56

Chapter 7 | *Costa Concordia* Cruise Ship 62

Chapter 8 | *Deepwater Horizon* 74

Glossary. 90

Index 92



Did You Know?

The *Storstad* was a ship from Norway. The front of the *Storstad* was built to be stronger than ice. When it collided with the *Empress of Ireland*, the *Storstad* stayed afloat.

Key Terms

captain—the person in charge of a ship

reef—rock or sand near the surface of the water

steamship—a large boat powered by steam

CHAPTER 1 | Introduction

People built boats long before there were cars or trains or planes. People used boats to get from one place to another. Traveling over water was often easier than traveling over land.

Some ancient people used boats for fishing as well as traveling. Later, boats were used for trade. These boats traveled long distances. They brought back spices and other wonderful things from far away.

Explorers traveled by boat to see other parts of the world.

Steamships

In the 1600s, people in Europe were looking for new places to live. Some wanted to go to America. Others were bound for Australia. They built ships to carry a lot of people at once.

In the 1800s, steamships started replacing sailing ships. The new ships could go faster. More and more people traveled by ship. Accidents at sea claimed more and more lives.

Bad weather caused many shipwrecks. Fog and storms were often to blame. Some ships hit underwater reefs.

The people who built ships tried to make them safe. Sometimes, though, they made mistakes. Some shipwrecks were the result of poor design.

Captains also made mistakes. The captain is in charge of the ship.

A captain's decision at sea can mean life or death for the people on board. Some shipwrecks happened because the captain made a bad choice.

Many ships were sunk during the first and second World Wars. Some of these ships were carrying guns and soldiers. Others had ordinary people and families on board.

Some disasters at sea don't kill people. Oil spills pollute oceans and beaches. They kill birds and other animals. These disasters ruin our environment.