

READING 1 : **TITANIC**

One of the strongest explanations for the severe loss of life has been the fact that the Titanic did not carry enough lifeboats for everyone on board. Maritime regulations at the time tied lifeboat capacity to the ship size, not to the number of passengers on board. This meant that the Titanic, with room for 1,178 of its 2,222 passengers, actually surpassed the Board of Trade's requirement to carry lifeboats for 1,060 of its passengers.

Nevertheless, with lifeboats being lowered less than half full in many cases, and only 712 passengers surviving despite a two-and-a-half-hour window of opportunity, more lifeboats would not have guaranteed more survivors in the absence of better training and preparation. Many passengers were confused about where to go after the order to launch lifeboats was given; a lifeboat drill scheduled for earlier on the same day that the Titanic struck the iceberg was cancelled by Captain Smith to allow passengers to attend church.

Questions:

1. The Titanic carried 1,178 lifeboats for 2,222 passengers.
2. Out of the total 2,222 passengers, only 712 passengers survived with the help of lifeboats
3. Lifeboat drills were cancelled by Captain Smith on the very same day when Titanic ended up hitting the iceberg
4. Captain Smith knew that the Titanic would hit the iceberg.
5. Passengers who survived the tragic accident were already trained and prepared.

In the late 1890s, while traveling as an Itinerant salesperson for the Crown, Cork, and Seal Company. King C. Gillette observed how his corked bottle caps were discarded immediately after opening. Nevertheless, his company turned a healthy profit, and there was immense business value. Gillette soon came to realize a product that was used only a few times. Gillette had his breakthrough while struggling with a straight-bladed razor – a slow, fiddly, and potentially dangerous instrument that required sharpening regularly. A simple, disposable blade that could be thrown away when it dulled would meet a real need and generate substantial profits, he correctly reasoned. After founding the American Safety Razor Company in 1901. his sales leaped from 168 blades in 1903 to 123,648 blades only a year later.

1. King C. Gillette was an itinerant salesperson in the late 1890s.
2. Crown, Cork, and Seal Company were owned by King C. Gillette.
3. Gillette discovered something when struggling with the straight-bladed razor.
4. American Safety Razor Company generated profits as soon as it started in 1901.
5. A straight-bladed razor should be sharpened regularly.