



# A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

## BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

The information below provides historical context for the tragic night detailed in Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*. Review the background information, study the images, and discuss each prompt before reading the book.

The early 1900s brought tremendous technological advancements for people across the world. With the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, the first radio broadcast in 1906, and Henry Ford's Model T in 1908, life was significantly transformed. These inventions, along with many others, created new opportunities for travel and communication.

When the *Titanic* took its maiden voyage in 1912, it was the largest ship ever built. The luxury liner had three different classes for travel: first, second, and third. Passengers paid for accommodation in one of those classes. The accommodations and facilities for each class were vastly different. First class was made up of extremely wealthy people and their servants. Second class included middle-class families and tourists. Third class, also known as steerage, consisted of emigrants from Europe hoping to start a new life in the United States or Canada. Most of the passengers on board were in third class.



First-class cabin on the *Titanic*



Third-class cabin on the *Olympic*,  
sister ship of the *Titanic*

- What do you notice about the sleeping quarters in each of the images?
- What kind of experience would a traveler have in each of these cabins?
- First-class cabins were located on the upper decks (A-C), while third-class cabins were located lower on the ship (Decks F & G). How do you think the locations of each of these cabins would impact the passengers during an emergency?
- What do the differences between the two cabins reveal about the class system of the time period?