

Iceberg Ahead!

Major plans are being drawn up to transform a disused shipyard in Belfast. The whole area will become a heritage centre dedicated to the famous ship RMS Titanic.

- What was special about the Titanic?
- Where and when was it built?
- Where was the Titanic travelling to?
- How would the passengers have felt about being on this ship?
- What kind of things would the Captain have needed to think about on the Titanic's maiden voyage?

Iceberg Fact File: Did you know?

- Icebergs are formed where ice sheets called glaciers reach the sea. Large pieces of the glacier break off and float away.
- Even though they float in the sea all icebergs are made from frozen fresh water. In Canada, iceberg water is bottled and sold for drinking.
- Only a small part of an iceberg sticks above the surface; there can be up to seven times as much ice below the sea.
- Icebergs vary in size; the smallest (up to 5m across) are called growlers. The largest iceberg ever recorded covered 6350 square kilometres! (That is more than three times the area of London!)
- Icebergs vary in shape and some can turn over suddenly as they melt.



Investigating icebergs

Even huge icebergs like the one that the Titanic hit eventually melt and turn to water. What do you think could affect how long it takes an iceberg to melt?

In groups brainstorm factors that could affect the time it takes for an iceberg to melt.

Which ones would be good to investigate?
How could you make mini-icebergs for your investigation?



Choose one factor to investigate.

1

Decide on a question you could investigate by using miniature icebergs.

2

What do you predict would happen in your investigation?

3

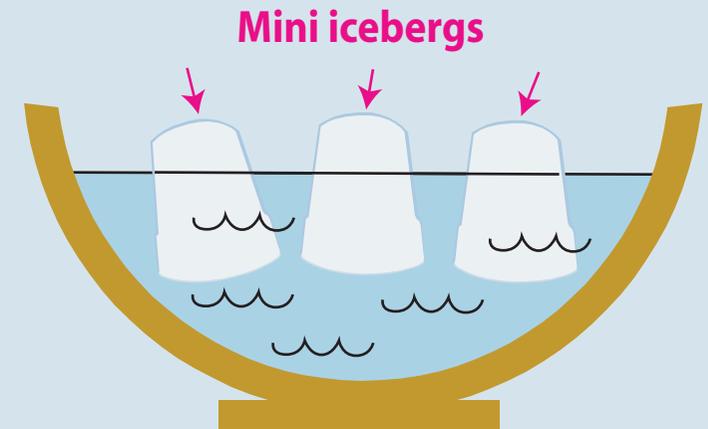
What factor would you change in your investigation?

4

What factors would you need to keep the same to set your investigation up as a fair test?

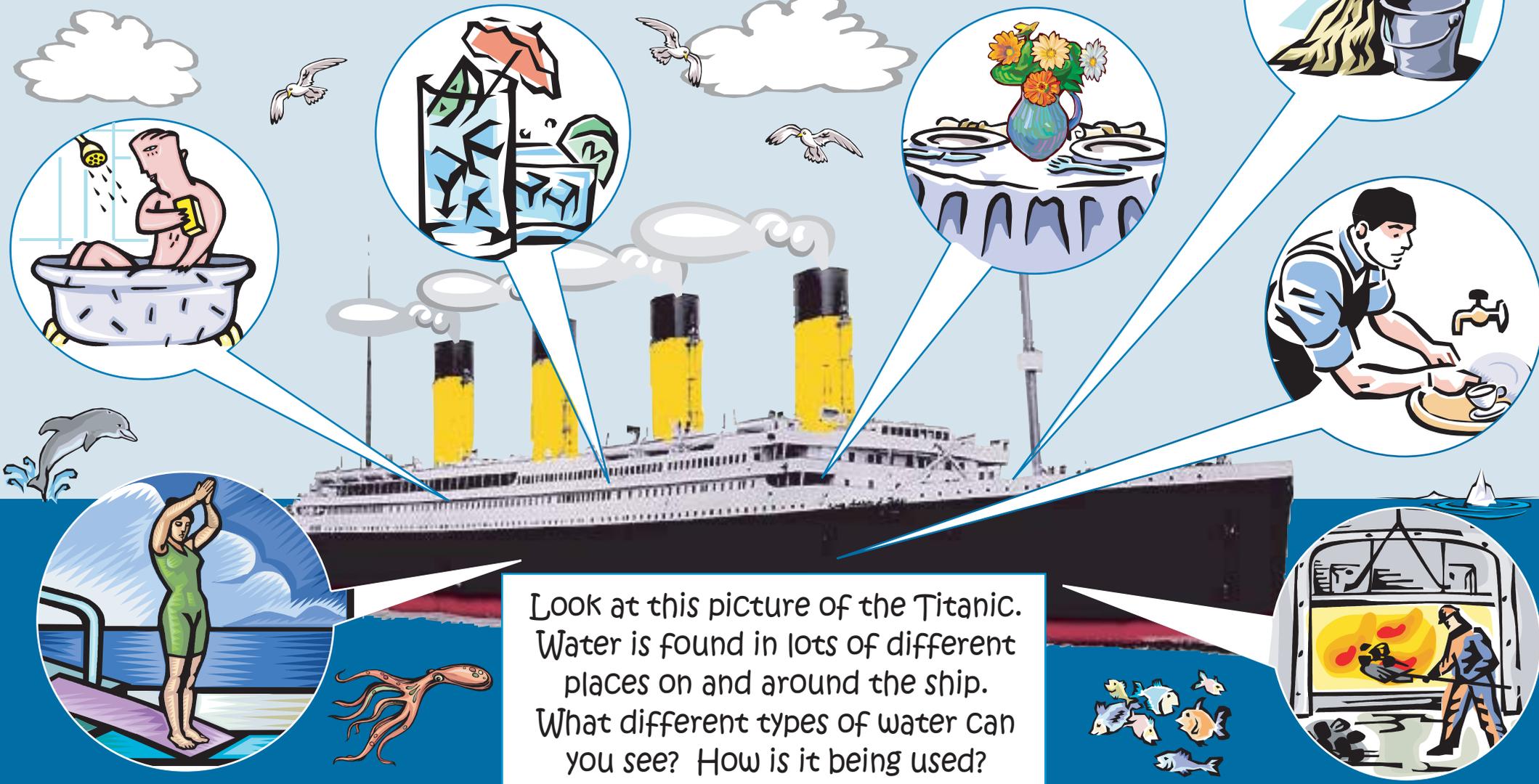
5

What measurements or observations would you make for your results?



Water story

There is a story that when the Titanic hit the iceberg some pieces of ice fell onto the deck of the ship. Some of the rich passengers, unaware that the ship was in danger, had the ice collected so it could be used to chill their drinks!



Look at this picture of the Titanic. Water is found in lots of different places on and around the ship. What different types of water can you see? How is it being used?