

# How the *Titanic* Sank

❶ Water spills over from one "watertight" compartment into another. The *Titanic*'s bow (front) begins to dip into the sea.

❷ As the bow plunges, the stern (rear) rises out of the water, and the forward funnel topples into the sea.

❸ The weight of the stern causes the ship to break into two main sections. The bow is still attached to the stern by the keel as it goes under, pulling the

keel upright, like pulling a wagon behind it. But the keel breaks and the bow plunges to the ocean bottom.

❹ The stern rights itself briefly but soon loses buoyancy as water enters its compartments. It lifts again into the air and quickly sinks.

STERN

BOW

KEEL

**APRIL 15** **Midnight** Captain Smith tells the ship's wireless operators to send a distress call.



**12:25 a.m.** Smith orders passengers into lifeboats—women and children first.

**12:30 a.m.** Passengers remain hesitant to board the lifeboats. Most passengers and crew members do not yet realize the seriousness of the situation.

**12:45 a.m.** Lifeboat No. 7 is the first boat lowered into the water. The *Titanic* fires the first of eight distress rockets into the air. The sight of rockets finally convinces passengers of the danger.

**2:20 a.m.** The last of the *Titanic* disappears beneath the water.