

# Ships and Shipbuilding

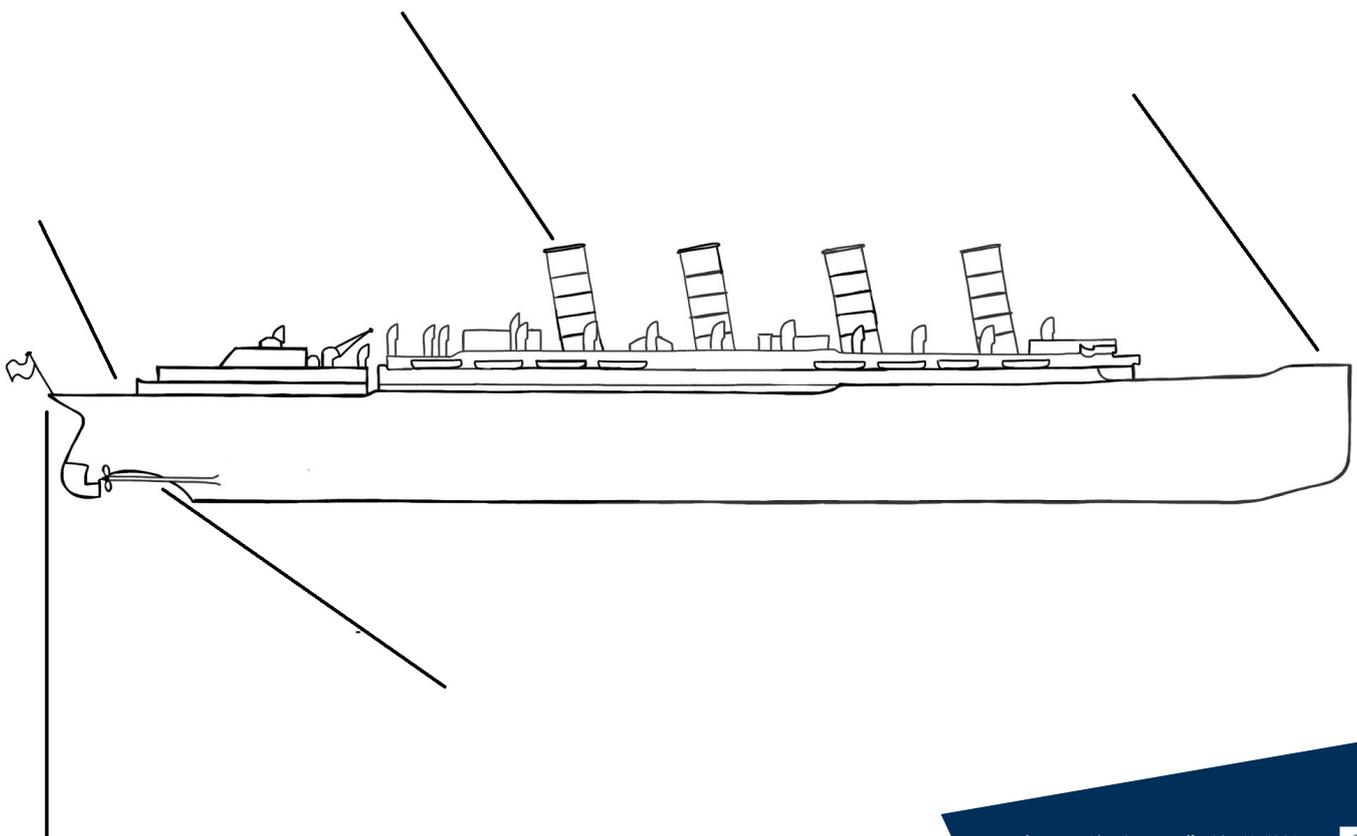
Did you know that since 1294 there has been a ship building industry on the River Tyne? The earliest recorded was the building of a galley for the King's Fleet.

Ships have been so important to the North East for work and money. They provide transport for goods made in the area, carry fisherman out to sea or were built around the shipyards on the river.

We don't see as much shipbuilding taking place on the Tyne today, however you will often see the huge DFDS ferry passing in and out every day carrying passengers to Amsterdam.

Do you know the names of any parts of a ship? Have a look at the illustration below and see if you can match the words to the parts.

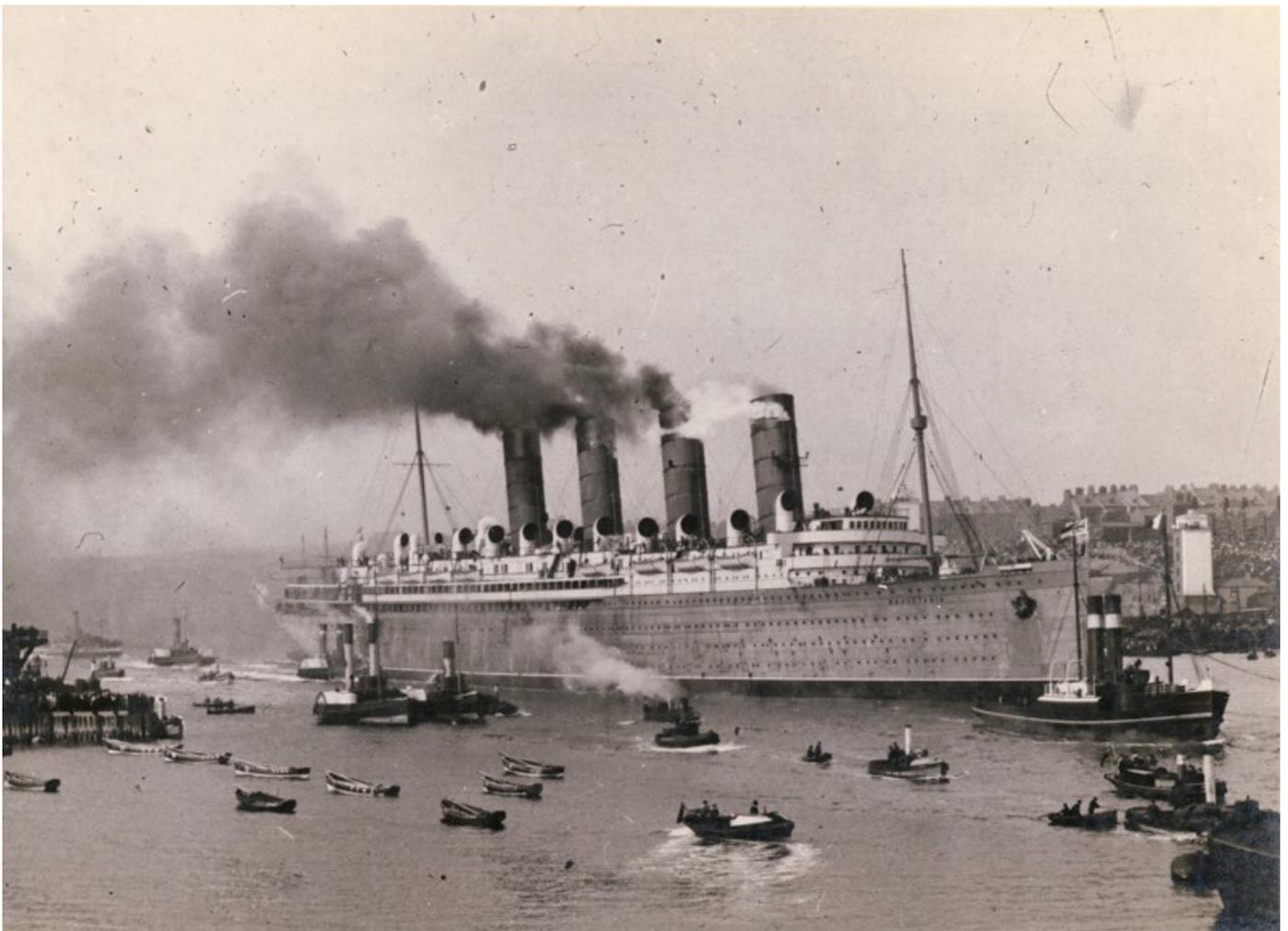
**Funnel**      **Stern**      **Propeller**      **Bow**      **Deck**



Two of the more well-known ships built around the River Tyne were Mauretania and Carpathia.

Both ships were built at the Swan Hunter Shipyard in Wallsend. For 20 years Mauretania held the Blue Riband title as the fastest ship in the world, with it taking only five days to return from the USA to the UK.

Carpathia is well known for being the only ship to rescue survivors following the sinking of Titanic. It took 700 people on board.



QSPS Mauretania at the mouth of the Tyne. TWAS:dx872/19

# Let's experiment with floating and sinking

Which materials float and which will sink? See if you can test some of the following, if you don't have them, then see what else you can find.

**Metal** – a spoon

**Plastic** – a bottle top or piece of Lego

**Stone** – pebble

**Wood** – wooden skewer

**Cork**

**Glass** – marble

**Polystyrene**

First, have a guess and predict if you think your different objects will float or sink. Tick under the correct heading before. Then, have a go. Put each object in the water and see which one floats and which sinks.

Material	Prediction		Result	
	Float	Sink	Float	Sink
Metal				
Plastic				
Stone				
Wood				
Cork				
Glass				
Polystyrene				

Were any of those results surprising? \_\_\_\_\_

Which material do you think would be best to make a boat from? \_\_\_\_\_

## Why don't you try making your own boat using some of the ideas from your experiment?

You could use materials from your recycling bin, or just things you can find around you. Maybe a plastic lid for the base, or some tubes to make funnels.

What do you think will happen if you put lots of things on the boat?

How can you make sure that your boat doesn't sink? Make sure to share some of your finished creations with us at [learning@discoverymuseums.org.uk](mailto:learning@discoverymuseums.org.uk)  
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