

On the Deck of the MAURETANIA

The building of the *Mauretania* was a major event. It showed that Britain was the best ship builder in the world – a powerful message to send to other countries! Local people were proud of the liner. On the day it was launched from Swan Hunters Wallsend shipyard, thousands of people joined the celebrations.

The *South Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph* described the day it was launched. Read the extract from the article on Sheet 5a or read from the full text on Sheet 6a.

Now look at the picture of the two children below – they were actually photographed standing on the *Mauretania*. Imagine you are standing there with them on launch day.



Task:

Write a story about the launch of the *Mauretania* as if you were standing on the deck with the two children. Here are a few things to think about to get you started with your story:

Read the newspaper extract again and try to imagine the sights, sounds and smells of the day.

- What can you see from the deck of the ship?
- How do you feel about being on the *Mauretania*?
Nervous? Excited? Scared?
- Where are you going? Do you want to go?

The 'Mauretania: Pride of the Tyne' information will give you some extra information about the *Mauretania* to help you with your story.

Passing of the MAURETANIA

Today will be memorable in the industrial history of the Tyne. For it has witnessed the departure from our coaly river, amid a demonstration of popular enthusiasm rarely equalled and never excelled, of the latest triumph of the shipbuilders' art...

*Every point from which a view of the great vessel could be obtained was thronged with spectators, chiefly the workmen and their wives, proud of the product of the famous mid-Tyne yard. A large cargo boat, the Ceylon...was packed like the grandstand at a big
ross the river*

