



9/11-A Day in Infamy

Grades 6+

9/11 Lesson Plans

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Unit IV- 9/11: A Case Study In Contemporary
Terrorism

Grade Level Range: 6+

Time: Two 45 minute class periods

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As you prepare to teach this lesson, be sensitive to the topic and how it may affect students, at any age. Even if a student was very young or not born yet, they may know about the events of the day from their families.

1. Ask if any students or their family members know people who were directly or indirectly affected by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
2. Give students the option of observing or not participating at all, if they wish.
3. Allow students to talk about their personal connection to 9/11 if they want to.
4. Indicate to the entire class that talking about 9/11 and thinking about the events of that day may cause people to experience different kinds of emotions. This is not unusual.
5. Encourage students to tell their families about the lesson.
6. Remember to be aware of your own reactions or thoughts.

Objective

Students will be able to discuss the basic sequence of events occurring before, during and after 9/11/01.

Activities/Procedures

1. The teacher will ask students to respond to the following prompt:
 - What do you know about the WTC attack on 9/11/01?
 - What do you know about other events before, during and after?
2. Students will go to the board and fill in their responses under “before,” “during,” and “after.”
3. The teacher will reflect on their answers, clarifying misconceptions and expanding on the information the students have provided by using the provided links to timelines.
4. Class discussion
 - Although this is a tragic story, what are the “glimpses of courage/hope/heroism in the story of 9/11?”
 - What changes have been made in this country since 9/11 in reference to: Policy, government, human and social, etc.

Key Background Detail for Teachers: Timeline Links Below

1. A historic 36-foot timeline exhibition that depicts the tragic and heroic events that occurred at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 – designed by the museum and developed with the assistance of family members who lost loved ones that day is now installed at ground zero. The timeline, which was installed on the World Trade Center viewing wall on Church Street near the temporary World Trade Center PATH Station, presents a chronological portrayal of events that occurred between 6:30 a.m. and 11:29 p.m. on September 11. http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/wtc_timeline/
2. Another timeline is available from the 911 National Memorial and Museum http://www.national911memorial.org/site/PageServer?pagename=New_History_Timeline

Evidence for Understanding

Students will accurately identify three events that occurred before, during or after 9/11/01.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service

1. Ask an older family member, friend about this event.
 - Why was it so important/tragic for the American people?
 - Write a letter of thanks after your interview, telling him/her that you appreciate their sharing of this time in their lives and how you reacted to their experience.
 - Choose one service activity to honor your interviewee’s help in this project

2. Identify people who were helpful/important before, during or after 9/11/01
 - What did they do? For what reason were there actions note-worthy?
 - Identify someone in your own life who has been important to you or your family during a time of crisis or need.
3. Draw a timeline of events from 1993 leading up to the destruction of 9/11/2001, the series of events that date, and the events of the following years up to 2010.
 - Include related events in places throughout the world during this time period.
 - Include your own family's events as well (birthdates, work and school, etc).
 - Research changes in safety regulations that have been implemented since 9/11, discuss how they affect your life and whether or not you agree with them.

Acknowledgments

This lesson plan was provided by The 4 Action Initiative, a joint project of Families of September 11, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and Liberty Science Center. The 4 Action Initiative curriculum includes seven units of lessons in multiple subject areas for grades K-12. In September 2010, the lesson plans will be released to New Jersey educators through the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. The 4 Action Initiative will make the entire curriculum nationwide. For tips on how to approach the teaching of sensitive subjects, please visit us at <https://sites.google.com/site/the4actioninitiative/>

