

Healing Field of Central Iowa

Presented by Homesteaders Life Company

September 9-16, 2006

5700 Westown Parkway

West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

800-477-3633

www.healingfieldcentraliowa.org


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Lesson Plan for Teachers

Note: This curriculum is designed as a starting point for teachers to generate classroom discussion about the events of September 11, 2001 in conjunction with visiting the Healing Field of Central Iowa in West Des Moines. Teachers should customize the materials for their students based on grade level.

For information on field trip grants to the Healing Field of Central Iowa, please download the application and contract located at www.healingfieldcentraliowa.org.

OBJECTIVES

The goal is to learn about the historical events of 9/11/01 as well as some positive aspects that resulted from these tragic events, such as Patriot Day, the Patriot Act, and the symbolism of the American Flag. Ninth through twelfth grade students are encouraged, at the instructor's discretion, to explore the more global concepts of the Patriot Act and views about its effect on civil liberties, and terrorism.

SUBJECTS

- The 9/11/01 terrorist attacks on America
- The American Flag
- Patriot Day
- The Patriot Act
- Terrorism

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ACTIVITIES

- Field trip to the *Healing Field of Central Iowa* (A limited number of grants are available. Go to www.healingfieldcentraliowa.org for information). OR visit the Healing Field with a friend or family members.
- Log on to www.healingfieldcentraliowa.org and submit thoughts or remembrances about the 9/11 attacks. Discuss in class.
- Participate as a volunteer during the event, September 7-8 or September 17.
- As a class, create a large memorial card or other tribute to post at the Healing Field (or create individual tributes).

ASSESSMENT

Not unlike Pearl Harbor and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on America was a pivotal, riveting event in our nation's history. The Healing Field of Central Iowa is a community event that commemorates the fifth anniversary of the attack.

These lessons provide an opportunity for students to have a dialogue about the 9/11/01 attack and the ramifications on our nation including the resulting "war on terrorism," the President's Patriot Day declaration, the meaning of the American flag as a symbol of our nation, The Patriot Act, terrorism, and the concept of nationalism.

INTRODUCTION

Five years ago this September 11th the United States was attacked by a group of terrorists that hijacked four American passenger planes. This carefully-planned operation called for using the aircraft as missiles – weapons intended to cause great harm to America's most important governmental and economic institutions.

Two aircraft were crashed into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third flew into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Another plane, believed to be headed to Washington D.C. to

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be crashed into the White House or Capitol building, was taken over by the passengers and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

In 2003, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation declaring that each September 11 be commemorated as Patriot Day. On this day, the President directs that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (EDT) marking the first plane crash on September 11.

Because of Patriot Day, a new kind of memorial has emerged called the Healing Field. Nearly 3,000 American flags will be placed on the grounds of Homesteaders Life Company at 5700 Westown Parkway in West Des Moines. Each flag will bear a yellow ribbon with the name of a person who died in the attacks.

We hope you can visit the site with family and friends between September 9 and 16 at 5700 Westown Parkway in West Des Moines. In addition, there will be a dedication ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11.

THE AMERICAN FLAG

The American flag is a symbol for what we as a country believe. Its markings have the following meanings:

- The stars represent the 50 states in the United States.
- The blue background stands for vigilance and justice.
- The red stripes stand for valor and sacrifice
- The white stripes stand for purity and innocence.
- There are 13 stripes, representing the original 13 colonies.

The victims who died on September 11, 2001 lived and worked under that flag. It is only fitting that the Healing Field of Central Iowa fly flags representing the victims and our country.

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THE ATTACK ON AMERICA

At 8:46 a.m. on September 11, 2001 a chain of events was set in motion that, within two short hours, would take the lives of nearly 3,000 people in a horrific act of cowardice. That fateful day America witnessed the inexpressible, the incomprehensible, and the unthinkable.

Four American passenger jets were hijacked by a total of 19 terrorists. The planes were then flown to be crashed into pre-selected targets. The first plane crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. About 20 minutes later a second plane crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon Building in Washington D.C. The fourth plane, believed to be intended for the Capitol Building or the White House, was taken back by the passengers in a heroic effort that resulted in the plane crashing in a field in Pennsylvania.

The planes used in the attack had been hijacked by a group of terrorists believed to be loyal to an organization in the Middle East called *Al Qaeda*, founded and lead by a man named *Osama bin Laden*. 2,998 people were killed on September 11, 2001 including those on the four passenger planes, in the World Trade Center towers, and the Pentagon. In addition to the Americans killed in the attacks, there were victims from approximately 48 other countries.

The attackers were terrorists who wished to attack symbols of America's strength, the World Trade Center (financial), the Pentagon (military), and the Capitol or White House (government).

The United States Congress declared war on terrorism three days after the attacks. Afghanistan was the United States forces' first objective because it allowed *Al Qaeda* to have training bases within its borders and refused to turn over *Al Qaeda's* leader, *Osama bin Laden* and other members of the group. Iraq targeted next for being suspected of aiding *Al Qaeda* and having weapons of mass destruction.

Today, America is still fighting a war against terrorism.

PATRIOT DAY

In the United States, *Patriot Day* occurs on September 11 of each year, designated in memory of those who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks. However, the name does not seem to have caught on in the American vernacular; most people still refer to the day as "September 11" or some variation thereof.

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U.S. House Joint Resolution 71 was approved by a vote of 407-0 on October 25, 2001. It requested that the President designate September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day.” President George W. Bush signed the resolution into law on December 18, 2001 (as Public Law 107-89). It is a discretionary day of remembrance.

On September 4, 2002, President Bush used his authority created by the resolution and proclaimed September 11, 2002 as *Patriot Day*. He has continued to make similar declarations every year since.

On this day, the President directs that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time) marking the first plane crash on September 11.

TERRORISM

Terrorism refers to a strategy of using violence, or threat of violence, to generate fear, cause disruption, and ultimately, to bring about compliance with specific political, religious, ideological, and personal demands.¹ The targets of terrorist attacks typically are not the individuals who are killed, injured, or taken hostage, but rather the societies to which these individuals belong.

Terrorism is a type of unconventional warfare designed to weaken political landscapes through capitulation or submission, as opposed to subversion or direct military action. The broader influence of terrorism in the modern world is often attributed to the dramatic focus of mass media to heighten feelings of intense fear and anger.

The term is also used to assert that the violence targets “innocent civilians,” or that it is executed “with disregard for human life.” According to some definitions of terrorism used by states and governments, terrorists are actors who don't belong to any recognized armed force, or who don't adhere to their rules.

Acts of terrorism can be carried out by individuals, groups, or states.

¹ <http://classes.washburnlaw.edu/khan/publications/19CLR945.htm>



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THE PATRIOT ACT

The official title of the USA PATRIOT Act is "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act of 2001." This legislation is broad and changes immigration laws, tightens controls on money laundering, and greatly expands the legal use of electronic surveillance.

The Patriot Act is one of the most powerful pieces of legislation in modern times. The Patriot Act affects both domestic citizens and foreign visitors. Because it is such a complex law, most people don't completely understand it. The Patriot Act itself is a 342 page document that covers 350 subject areas involving 40 different federal agencies.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice the Patriot Act has played a key part in a number of successful operations to protect Americans from terrorist operations that hurt or kill innocent people or attempt to "destroy the American way of life." While the Act was passed nearly unanimously by the Senate (96-1) and 357-66 in the House of Representatives, it is still controversial. Some groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) believe that the Act that might allow the actions of peaceful groups that dissent from government policy, such as Greenpeace, to be treated as "domestic terrorism;"² or that people's library habits could become the target of government surveillance.³

The Patriot Act is designed to improve America's counter-terrorism efforts. It does this by widening local and federal law enforcement's use of tools to investigate organized crime and drug trafficking, surveillance, and information-sharing among government agencies. Because of new technology such as cellular and satellite telephones and the Internet, the Act includes provisions for law enforcement to keep pace with "digital age" criminal and terrorist activity including computer hacking. It also increases penalties for those who commit terrorist crimes.

The Act affects the way companies do business, including protecting the privacy of its customers, and it has affected travel within and outside of the United States. All Americans are affected and protected in some way by the USA Patriot Act, and nearly everyone has an opinion on it.

The Opposing View

² ACLU, February 11, 2003; ACLU fundraising letter, cited by Stuart Taylor in "UnPATRIOTic," National Journal, August 4, 2003.

³ ACLU, July 22, 2003.

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Since it was created and enacted so hastily and with great emotion (45 days following the 9/11 attack), the Patriot Act was actually written to expire in a short amount of time so that it may be reviewed and updated as technology and events emerge. On March 9, 2006, Congress approved the Patriot Act Reauthorization Bill, but with far greater opposition than the first time around.

Groups such as the ACLU are concerned that the Act infringes on an American citizen's right to privacy. In fact, some believe the Act is unconstitutional, citing the President's executive power to authorize certain surveillance methods including wiretapping or seizure of a company's or individual's financial records.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. What does the color blue represent on the American flag?
2. What does the color red represent on the American flag?
3. Why are there 13 stripes on the flag?
4. What is Patriot Day?
5. At what time does the President ask for a national moment of silence on Patriot Day? Why?
6. The attack against American was on September 11,
(a) 1999 (b) 2000 (c) 2001 (d) 2002 (e) 2003
7. How many planes had been hijacked on September 11?
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (e) 6
8. The first building hit was the...
(a) Pentagon (b) Capital building (c) World Trade Center (d) White House (e) a building in Pennsylvania

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9. The group responsible for the attack was...
 - (a) Hamas (b) Hezbollah (c) AlQaeda (d) Palestinians (e) Red Brigade
10. How many people were murdered on September 11th in the terrorist attacks?
 - (a) 1000 (b) 2000 (c) 3000 (d) 4000 (e) 5000
11. The name of the man who led the attack is...
 - (a) Saddam Hussein (b) Osama bin Laden (c) Mohammed Atta (d) Yassir Arafat (e) Alzakari
12. Today America is fighting a war against...
 - (a) Afghanistan (b) Iran (c) Iraq (d) Terrorism (e) Egypt
13. Acts of terrorism can be carried out by...
 - (a) Individuals (b) Groups (c) States (d) all three
14. Terrorism is described as “unconventional.” In your opinion, is it “fair?”
15. When was the USA Patriot Act first made into law?
16. Why was the first Act set to expire shortly after it was passed?
17. List three things in your everyday life that are impacted by The USA Patriot Act.
18. What are some of the fears of those who oppose the current act?
19. What does freedom mean to you?

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