



McKeesport Area School District
Flexible Instruction Days – High School Lesson Plan

SUBJECT: American Cultures			LESSON TITLE: 9-11 (September 11 th 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LESSON 1: 1 st or 2 nd 9-Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> LESSON 2: 2 nd or 3 rd 9-Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> LESSON 3: 2 nd or 3 rd 9-Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> LESSON 4: 2 nd or 3 rd 9-Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON 5: 3 rd or 4 th 9-Weeks
STANDARD(S): PA Core Standards CC.8.5.9-10.A Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information. CC.8.6.9-10.H Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.				
INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES: Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine the text of 9-11 (September 11, 2001)• Assess the role of terrorism in transforming the nation• Draw conclusions based on the authors purpose of the article, do you agree/disagree				
STUDENT PARTICIPATION (<i>Lesson steps</i>): Students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read secondary sources for content knowledge.2. Answer Multiple choice questions about the reading.3. Respond to a writing prompt.				
ACCOMMODATIONS: For struggling learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing prompt may be removed or adapted For advanced learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside evidence to be utilized for the writing prompt to support thesis				
HANDOUTS (<i>exact names of ALL accompanying handouts</i>) & RESOURCES (<i>materials, websites, books, etc.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9-11 (September 11, 2001)				
EVIDENCE OF LEARNING Students will demonstrate their: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of chronological events of 9-11• Understanding the events leading up to the attacks on 9-11• Ability to understand personal bias in writing				

9/11 (SEPTEMBER 11, 2001)

The following is from the Final Report of National Commission on Attacks Upon the United States.

A Nation Transformed

At 8:46 on the morning of September 11, 2001, the United States became a nation transformed.

An airliner traveling at hundreds of miles per hour and carrying some 10,000 gallons of jet fuel plowed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. At 9:03, a second airliner hit the South Tower. Fire and smoke billowed upward. Steel, glass, ash, and bodies fell below. The Twin Towers, where up to 50,000 people worked each day, both collapsed less than 90 minutes later.

At 9:37 that same morning, a third airliner slammed into the western face of the Pentagon. At 10:03, a fourth airliner crashed in a field in southern Pennsylvania. It had been aimed at the United States Capitol or the White House, and was forced down by heroic passengers armed with the knowledge that America was under attack.

More than 2,600 people died at the World Trade Center; 125 died at the Pentagon; 256 died on the four planes. The death toll surpassed that at Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

This immeasurable pain was inflicted by 19 young Arabs acting at the behest of Islamist extremists headquartered in distant Afghanistan. Some had been in the United States for more than a year, mixing with the rest of the population. Though four had training as pilots, most were not well-educated. Most spoke English poorly, some hardly at all. In groups of four or five, carrying with them only small knives, box cutters, and cans of Mace or pepper spray, they had hijacked the four planes and turned them into deadly guided missiles.

Why did they do this? How was the attack planned and conceived? How did the U.S. government fail to anticipate and prevent it? What can we do in the future to prevent similar acts of terrorism?

A Shock, Not a Surprise

The 9/11 attacks were a shock, but they should not have come as a surprise. Islamist extremists had given plenty of warning that they meant to kill Americans indiscriminately and in large numbers. Although Osama Bin Ladin himself would not emerge as a signal threat until the late 1990s, the threat of Islamist terrorism grew over the decade.

In February 1993, a group led by Ramzi Yousef tried to bring down the World Trade Center with a truck bomb. They killed six and wounded a thousand. Plans by Omar Abdel Rahman and others to blow up the Holland and Lincoln tunnels and other New York City landmarks were frustrated when the plotters were arrested. In October 1993, Somali tribesmen shot down U.S. helicopters, killing 18 and wounding 73 in an incident that came to be known as "Black Hawk down." Years later it would be learned that those Somali tribesmen had received help from al Qaeda.

In early 1995, police in Manila uncovered a plot by Ramzi Yousef to blow up a dozen U.S. airliners while they were flying over the Pacific. In November 1995, a car bomb exploded outside the office of

the U.S. program manager for the Saudi National Guard in Riyadh, killing five Americans and two others. In June 1996, a truck bomb demolished the Khobar Towers apartment complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. servicemen and wounding hundreds. The attack was carried out primarily by Saudi Hezbollah, an organization that had received help from the government of Iran.

Until 1997, the U.S. intelligence community viewed Bin Ladin as a financier of terrorism, not as a terrorist leader. In February 1998, Osama Bin Ladin and four others issued a self-styled fatwa, publicly declaring that it was God's decree that every Muslim should try his utmost to kill any American, military or civilian, anywhere in the world, because of American "occupation" of Islam's holy places and aggression against Muslims.

In August 1998, Bin Ladin's group, al Qaeda, carried out near-simultaneous truck bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The attacks killed 224 people, including 12 Americans, and wounded thousands more.

In December 1999, Jordanian police foiled a plot to bomb hotels and other sites frequented by American tourists, and a U.S. Customs agent arrested Ahmed Ressam at the U.S. Canadian border as he was smuggling in explosives intended for an attack on Los Angeles International Airport.

In October 2000, an al Qaeda team in Aden, Yemen, used a motorboat filled with explosives to blow a hole in the side of a destroyer, the USS *Cole*, almost sinking the vessel and killing 17 American sailors.

The 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were far more elaborate, precise, and destructive than any of these earlier assaults. But by September 2001, the executive branch of the U.S. government, the Congress, the news media, and the American public had received clear warning that Islamist terrorists meant to kill Americans in high numbers.

1. In December 1999, U.S. Customs stopped a planned terrorist attack on
 - A. U.S. airliners flying over the Pacific.
 - B. a U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.
 - C. the Los Angeles International Airport.
 - D. hotels frequented by American tourists.

2. How many of the terrorists involved in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon had been trained as pilots?
 - A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 12
 - D. 19

3. According to the article, Bin Ladin and four others issued a "fatwa" against Americans because of American occupation of
 - A. Islam's holy places.
 - B. Afghanistan cities.
 - C. Aden, Yemen.
 - D. the Persian Gulf.

4. According to the article, which of the following is true of the Islamic extremists behind the bombing of the World Trade Center?
- A. Some of them were career criminals.
 - B. Most of them knew how to fly a plane.
 - C. Some of them had lived in the U.S. for over a year.
 - D. Most of them spoke English very well.
5. Who planned to blow up the Holland and Lincoln tunnels?
- A. Ahmed Ressam
 - B. Usama Bi Ladin
 - C. Omar Abdel Rahman
 - D. Ramzi Yousef
6. What conclusion does the author make at the end of the article? Do you agree or disagree with this conclusion?
