Patriot Day
Grades 4 & 5 Lesson Plan

This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth

Illustrations from This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth. Illustrations by Author/Illustrator Sean Rubin. Published by Henry Holt & Company.

We Will Never Forget
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Teacher:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade: 4th Grade &amp; 5th Grade</td>
<td>Lesson: Patriot Day, September 11</td>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES:</th>
<th>STRATEGIES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.6 Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.</td>
<td>□ Drawing/Coloring</td>
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<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.6 Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.</td>
<td>□ Writing</td>
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<td>□ K-W-L Worksheet</td>
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<td>□ Collaboration</td>
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<td>□ Discussion Questions</td>
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<td>□ Small Groups</td>
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<td>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of the Patriot Day K-W-L Worksheet; Copies First Person Narrative Flow Chart; Copies of Patriot Day Word Search Puzzle; Copies of the How to Observe Patriot Day/Find A Way to Serve sheets; For more information, 911 Fact Sheet for Early Childhood Students.pdf (911memorial.org) make copies of this Fact Sheet from the 9/11 Memorial Foundation.</td>
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**Engage:** Hook the students

Hand out the Patriot Day K-W-L. Allow students time to fill in the first section of the K-W-L worksheet.

Explain to students, on September 11, 2001, four airplanes were hijacked, or taken over, by 19 terrorists and flown into important buildings in the United States. Two planes were flown into the Twin Towers in New York City. One plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington DC, and the fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, PA. As people rushed out of the Twin Towers, many people rushed in to help, including firefighters and police officers, who saved thousands of lives. Almost 3,000 people were killed by the terrorist on 9/11, 2,750 died in the Twin Towers, 186 people died in the Pentagon, 40 people died in PA. Included in those numbers are 441 first responders who died trying to help other people to safety. Play the read Aloud Book *This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth*—Author, Sean Rubin, [https://youtu.be/FfGk7I2rHqw](https://youtu.be/FfGk7I2rHqw)

**Explore:** Students make sense of a concept through observations.

Students will view the National Geographic Short Film, 9/11 'Survivor Tree' Returns to Ground Zero by Filmmaker Scott Elliott [https://youtu.be/5bLw6bReCbU](https://youtu.be/5bLw6bReCbU) The last living rescue from 9/11—was a charred and battered pear tree. The tree was found by rescue workers in the rubble and debris following the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers. The tree was removed from the wreckage and sent to a Bronx nursery to see if it could survive. This video follows the journey of the resilient tree back to Ground Zero.

**Explain:** Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.

hijack    Twin Towers    nursery
terrorists    First Responders    Ground Zero
al-Qaeda    resilient

**Elaborate:** Students apply what they have learned.

Students will learn about the events of September 11, 2001, by completing the This Very Tree First Person Narrative Worksheet, the students will read the How to Observe Patriot Day and Find a Way to Serve sheets to brainstorm a way to volunteer centered around Patriot Day, and complete the Patriot Day K-W-L worksheet.

**Evaluate:** assessment.

Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.

**Enrichment/Service-Learning Project**

Students will participate in an activity to Remember those who died on 9/11. Students will brainstorm a way to serve in their community.
# Wreaths Across America
## Lesson Plan

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### Patriot Day K-W-L

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What I KNOW:</th>
<th>What I WANT to KNOW:</th>
<th>What I LEARNED:</th>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth
First Person Narrative Flow Chart
The Survivor Tree’s Flow Chart

TOPIC:

SETTING:

PEOPLE:

INITIATING EVENT:

SEQUENCE 1

SEQUENCE 2

SEQUENCE 3

RESOLUTION:

FEELINGS:

Remember-Honor-Teach
This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth
First Person Narrative Flow Chart

Answer Key

The Survivor Tree’s Flow Chart

**TOPIC:** The Survivor Tree located in the rubble after 9/11, and the resilience and regrowth of the tree and the city of New York.

**SETTING:** New York City—the World Trade Center Plaza and a tree nursery in the Bronx.

**PEOPLE:** people in New York City, First Responders, workers who cleared the debris after 9/11, workers at the tree nursery

**INITIATING EVENT:** the attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.

**SEQUENCE 1:** the survivor tree is found by workers at Ground Zero and is moved to the tree nursery.

**SEQUENCE 2:** the tree spends years at the Bronx tree nursery with people trying to save it.

**SEQUENCE 3:** the tree is moved back to Ground Zero as a part of the memorial to 9/11.

**FEELINGS:** Answers will vary.

**RESOLUTION:** the resilience and regrowth of the Survivor Tree and the people of New York after 9/11.

Remember-Honor-Teach
Name __________________________

Patriot Day Word Search Puzzle

| P O N D R E S P O N D E R          |
| T D A Y Q B L                    |
| T A L Y O M E R S T T R E           |
| R I C T C I B G S D X E E R       |
| S F A E J I A G F B E R E         |
| K L O P D R W                     |
| Y O H J A I K L O P D R W         |
| D Y W O S O L C E M B R J O O O   |
| N D O F Z Z F K E D C C R M R T   |
| U V R F I R E F I G H T E R D I N |
| O N K F C T G B U J M I S K Y S I |
| R U E S E P T E M B E R W P Z T W |
| G J R B R G B A I R P L A N E S T |

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<td>Police Officer</td>
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<td>Armed Forces</td>
<td>Patriot Day</td>
<td>Protect</td>
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<td>Pentagon</td>
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## Answer Key

### Patriot Day Word Search Puzzle

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F I R S T R E S P O N D E R H J H
Q P M Q P A T R I O T D A Y Q B L
M R E A O Z P S X E D C R R O T R
X O D F L V E G B Y H N M U F J H
O T I J I M N K H E R O E S R T S
R E C O C L T C I B G S D X E E R
E C A R E F A E J I A G F B E R E
Z T L Y O H G J A I K L O P D R W
D Y W O F S O L C E M B R J O O O
N D O Q F Z N S K E D C C R M R T
U V R F I R E F I G H T E R D I N
O N K F C T G B U J M I S K Y S I
R U E S E P T E M B E R W P Z T W
G J R B R G B A I R P L A N E S T
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Wreaths Across America
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How To Observe Patriot Day

- Hold a Patriot Day ceremony in YOUR Classroom, at YOUR School, or participate in a program in YOUR community.

- Observe moments of silence in remembrance of those who died on September 11:
  - 8:46 AM EDT – American Airlines Flight #11 collides into the World Trade Center
  - 9:03 AM EDT – United Airlines Flight #175 collides into the World Trade Center South Tower
  - 9:37 AM EDT – American Airlines Flight #77 crashes into the Pentagon
  - 9:59 AM EDT – World Trade Center South Tower Collapses
  - 10:03 AM EDT – United Airlines Flight #93 crashes in Shanksville, PA
  - 10:28 AM EDT – World Trade Center North Tower Collapses

- Volunteer – While remembering the meaning of the day, volunteer for an organization that is meaningful to you, or organize an event in your school or in your community. Improve the lives of others and the world around you. Spread kindness. Use the “Find a Way to Serve” list on the next page for ideas and projects you can start or complete on Patriot Day!

PATRIOT DAY HISTORY

- September 13, 2001 – In the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush proclaimed Friday, September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001.

- August 31, 2002 – President George W. Bush proclaimed Friday, September 6, through Sunday, September 8, 2002, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance.

- On December 18, 2001- Congress approved Designation Of September 11 As Patriot Day.

(a) Designation. September 11 is Patriot Day.
(b) Proclamation. The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on:
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  (1) State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate programs and activities;
  (2) all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States and interested organizations and individuals to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001; and
  (3) the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001."
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- September 4, 2002 – President Bush proclaimed September 11, 2002, as the first Patriot Day.

- Each US President has proclaimed September 11 as Patriot Day since President Bush issued the first proclamation in 2002. Some Presidents have included national days of prayer and remembrance, and some Presidents have included national days of service and volunteerism.

Remember-Honor-Teach
“Find a Way to Serve”

1. Draw pictures or make cards for First Responders in your local community or servicemen and women overseas or veterans at a local VA Hospital or VA Home. Operation Gratitude sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.

2. Make cards for Senior citizens in your community for the various holidays. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting local nursing homes, senior centers and VA Homes to determine the procedure they have for community involvement, the numbers of residents, etc.
   * setting up a calendar as a reminder to your child letting them know when certain holidays are coming.
   * providing materials: crayons, paper, coloring sheets for younger students
   * setting up a time for delivery of the cards to the facility, or help mail the cards at the Post Office.

3. Decorate placemats to be used for Senior citizens during the holidays with a special note or picture! Many agencies deliver meals to Seniors who have mobility problems and are on a fixed income. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting local agencies that provide meals for Seniors, coordinate with the agency to provide placemats for an upcoming holiday
   * talking with your child’s teacher to see if this could be a classroom project
   * provide materials,

4. Donate gently used or new stuffed animals to a local fire department or police station to give to children in emergencies.

5. During your birthday month, donate cake mix, frosting, candles, and an age-appropriate toy in a box. Donate items to a local food pantry or school social worker for families in need of a birthday cake. Let your child decorate the bag/box with a birthday message. Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting a local food bank or their child’s school to arrange a drop-off point
   * purchasing the items to donate
   * taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

6. Collect school supplies, coloring books/crayons or games to donate to local homeless shelters or local children’s hospitals.
   * contacting a local food bank or their children’s hospital to arrange a drop-off point
   * purchasing the items to donate
   * taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

7. Make a no-sew fleece blanket for a child in need with Project Linus, or a Veteran in need with Soldiers’ Angels. Parents can help their children by:
   * log on to the Project Linus or Soldiers’ Angels to check out the specifications for the blankets,
   * help their child purchase materials
   * help their child make the blanket if necessary
   * take their child to ship or deliver the blanket

Remember-Honor-Teach