Patriot Day Lesson Plan
Grades 6-8

We Will Never Forget

WREATHS across AMERICA
## Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

**Teacher:**

**Date:**

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

**Lesson:** Patriot Day, September 11

### OBJECTIVES: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7-8.7
Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.9-8.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### STRATEGIES:
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- Collaboration
- Primary Source Reading & Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

### MATERIALS:
Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of the Primary Source Analysis Worksheet-President George Bush Address to the Nation on September 11, 2001; Copies of 9/11 Interview Worksheet; Copies of A Text in Time-9/11/2001 Worksheet; Copies of Thank You cards for Local First Responders; Copies of How to Observe Patriot Day

### Engage: Hook the students
Students should get their completed 9/11 Interview Worksheets; put the students into groups of 2-3; the students should share two of the three interviews with members of their group. When students have completed the small group exchange, ask the class as a whole what answers their interviewees had in common, did age impact their answers? Did their location? What feelings did people have in common?

### Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.
Show the 9/11 PowerPoint. Stop to discuss slides if students have questions. Handout the Primary Source Analysis Worksheet-President George Bush Address to the Nation on September 11, 2001. Read the Address aloud. Students should complete the Primary Source Analysis Questions. Students should complete the Text in Time-9/11/2001 Worksheet.

### Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.
World Trade Center  
Osama bin Laden  
Taliban  
Twin Towers  
terrorist  
Saddam Hussein  
Pentagon  
al-Qaeda

### Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.
Students will complete the Primary Source Worksheet-President George Bush Address to the Nation on September 11, 2001. Students will complete the 9/11 Interview Worksheet.
Students will read the How to Observe Patriot Day information sheet.
Students will complete the Text in Time-9/11/2001 Worksheet.
Students will write a Thank You card to local First Responders in honor of Patriot Day.

### Evaluate: assessment.
Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.

### Enrichment/Service-Learning Project
Student will write Thank You cards to First Responders in their local community. Students will brainstorm other ways to show their gratitude to those who serve in their community by reviewing the Find a Way to Serve list of activities for grades 6-8.

Remember-Honor-Teach
Primary Source Analysis

On September 11, 2001, the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States occurred, when 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four passenger airplanes and crashed them into targets including the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington, DC.

The first plane to crash struck the north tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46 am. Four minutes later, President George W. Bush was notified of the attack while reading to schoolchildren in Florida. At 9:03 am, a second plane crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

At 9:31 am, President Bush publicly called the events an apparent act of terrorism against the United States. Six minutes later, a third plane crashed into the Pentagon near Washington, DC. At 10:07 am, a fourth plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field after passengers attempted to retake control of the airplane from the hijackers.

At 8:30 pm, on September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush gave the following address to the people of the United States from the Oval Office of the White House.

George W. Bush’s 9/11 Address to the Nation:

Good evening.

Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices: secretaries, business men and women, military and federal workers, moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge -- huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil -- the very worst of human nature -- and we responded with the best of America. With the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington D.C. to help with local rescue efforts. Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks. The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well.

Remember-Honor-Teach
The search is underway for those who were behind these evil acts. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them. I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance. America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.

Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me. This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night. And God bless America.
Name ______________________________

Primary Source Analysis Questions

1. According to George W. Bush, what came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts?

2. What did Bush say the acts of mass murder were intended to do?

3. Why did Bush say America was targeted for attack?

4. Where were emergency teams working to help with local rescue efforts?

5. What did Bush say our first priority was?

6. Bush said we would make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and whom?

7. When did federal agencies in Washington reopen for essential personnel?

8. Bush stated that “None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward-” to do what?
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th Lesson: Patriot Day, September 11

Answer Key

Primary Source Analysis Questions

1. According to George W. Bush, what came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts?  
   Our way of life, our very freedom.

2. What did Bush say the acts of mass murder were intended to do?  
   Frighten our nation into chaos and retreat

3. Why did Bush say America was targeted for attack?  
   Because we’re the brightest beacon of freedom and opportunity in the world

4. Where were emergency teams working to help with local rescue efforts?  
   New York City and Washington D.C.

5. What did Bush say our first priority was?  
   Get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks

6. Bush said we would make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and whom?  
   Those who harbor them

7. When did federal agencies in Washington reopen for essential personnel?  
   That night

8. Bush stated that “None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward-” to do what?  
   To defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world
Name __________________________________________

9/11 Interview Worksheet

Directions: Select a family member, family friend or teacher to interview about their experiences on September 11, 2001. Record their answers on the chart below. Make sure the person you are interviewing was at least 10 years old on 9/11. Your interview should be completed the first week of September, you should bring it to class on 9/11.

PART 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewee 1 Name:</th>
<th>Interviewee 2 Name:</th>
<th>Interviewee 3 Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How old were you on 9/11?</td>
<td>How old were you on 9/11?</td>
<td>How old were you on 9/11?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where were You?</td>
<td>Where were You?</td>
<td>Where were You?</td>
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<td>How did you feel?</td>
<td>How did you feel?</td>
<td>How did you feel?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How did the US change after 9/11?</td>
<td>How did the US change after 9/11?</td>
<td>How did the US change after 9/11?</td>
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<td>What is your most vivid memory of the day? Why?</td>
<td>What is your most vivid memory of the day? Why?</td>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
A Text in Time Activity—September 11, 2001

Directions: Using the information you have learned during our study of September 11, 2001, complete this creative writing assignment.

1. You are to assume one of the following roles for the purpose of this assignment:
   A. a tourist who is visiting New York City or the Pentagon on September 11, 2001
   B. a firefighter, police officer or other First Responder who works in New York City, the Pentagon or Shanksville, PA on September 11, 2001
   C. a resident of New York City, Washington, DC, or Shanksville, PA on September 11, 2001

2. Create a dialogue between your assumed role and one of the following: your parents, siblings, a friend, or co-worker using text messages. The texts should be historically relevant and accurate, in other words, a text conversation your assumed role would be having on September 11, 2001.

3. Two out of your six messages should be pictures you draw/color in the space provided. You may use landscape or portrait view.

I am assuming the following role for the purpose of this activity:

I am texting the following person:
### Wreaths Across America
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On Patriot Day, and Every Day, Thank You for Your Service to Our Community.

On Patriot Day, and Every Day, Thank You for Your Service to Our Community.


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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:
  ` `(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.``

• 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.
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Grades 6-8  

Find a Way to Serve

- Help an elderly neighbor with yard work.
- Volunteer at your local library.
- Create “Survival Back-Packs” for the homeless with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless people in your community.
- Organize a Checkers, board game or card game tournament at your local nursing home. Coordinate with the nursing home staff and plan a fun afternoon for the residents and students alike!
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. 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.
- Collaborate with teachers, students, administration, and parents to create a food “Back-Pack” pantry at your school for students who may have food insecurities at home. Twenty-two million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat during the day.
- Make a “New Student Kit” for students who are new to your school. Create a list of school clubs, a calendar of events, school lunch menus, map of the school, and something with the school mascot to help the student feel like they are welcome.
- Organize a Zoom Meeting between your class at school and local nursing home residents. Discuss what their childhoods were like growing up, what kind of classes they took in school. Did they live in town or in the country, what kinds of chores and activities did they participate in when they were your age. Document their responses and share with other classes in your school. If some of your interviewees have a talent like singing or playing the piano, maybe they could share those talents with the class the next time you Zoom. Once you have met the residents, select a “pin-pal” you can correspond with by letter every few weeks.
- Be a companion to a senior citizen in a local nursing home. Make cards, surprise them with visits around their birthday or sing carols for them around the holidays.
- Organize a coat drive in your school/community that collects new and slightly used coats as part of ONEWARMCOAT.org
- Use AARP’s Create the Good Guide to start recycling events in your community.

Remember-Honor-Teach