

Grade level: 7

Length: 1 class period

Introduction

In order to understand the impact that September 11th had on the world and how the attacks have shaped our future, students are encouraged to view them in a global context. As demonstrated in this excerpt from the HBO documentary [What Happened on September 11](#), teachers can present their students with this complex historical subject in a variety of ways.

Watch the [Placing 9/11 In A Global Context](#) excerpt, then explore this lesson plan to see how teachers have framed 9/11 within the scope of global history.

Objective

The purpose of this lesson is to not only learn about the events of 9/11, but also to understand how life has changed since.

Common Core Standards

Comprehensive Common Core Alignments at end of lesson plan.

English Language Arts Standards for Speaking & Listening: 1, 1C, 1D, 2

Resources

- [Placing 9/11 In A Global Context](#) Excerpt
- [“What Happened on September 11”](#), HBO
- [KWL ½ sheet](#) (1 per student)
- [9/11 Slides Presentation](#)
- [“5 Ways Life Has Changed Since 9/11”](#) article (1 per student)
- Sticky notes (1 per scholar)
- [CBS News Coverage “President Bush Visits Ground Zero”](#)
- [U2 “Walk On 9/11”](#)
- [CNN 10 “9/11 Memorial”](#)

Preparation

Step 1: Students will use a KWL chart to track their thoughts and reflections during the class period. K represents things they already know, W represents things they want to know (questions), and the L represents things they learned from the day. Give students 3-4 minutes at the beginning of the class to fill out the K and W sections. Elicit responses from the class and list their pieces of information on a KWL chart drawn on the whiteboard. It is important for students to see what they want to learn about so you can try to touch on those subjects throughout the class period.

Step 2: Discuss a personal story of 9/11 (can be yours or one of a survivor).

Step 3: Project slides to the class, and lead discussion on material shown.

- Begin with slide 6 that defines key terms that the students will be hearing throughout the lesson (Islam, Muslim, terrorism, al Qaeda). Remind students to fill out their KWL chart throughout the day, especially adding to the L section when they learn something notable. Also remind them to ask questions when they are wondering about something they see or hear.
- Go through slides 7-8, which provide context and common facts and figures about September 11th.

- The next few slides have news clips and embedded videos to show the massive impact 9/11 had on the rest of the U.S. Slide 11 has a gif that demonstrates the air traffic activity on 9/11, while slide 12 has footage from CBS News when President Bush visited Ground Zero in the aftermath of the attacks.
- Slides 14 and 15 show the physical ways life has changed because of 9/11 with images of the New York City skyline and the 9/11 Memorial. On slide 16, watch a segment from CNN 10 that provides students with an opportunity to see inside the 9/11 Memorial Museum.
- View slide 17, which has a quote from President Bush that is meant to inspire a feeling of hope in the students after all the difficult information covered.
- Conclude with slides 18-19. Students will finish filling out their KWL charts and are encouraged to ask various adults when they go home (and at school) to talk about their experiences on 9/11.

Activity

Students will read the article “5 Ways Life Has Changed Since 9/11.” Break up the article into the 5 sections and assign groups a section to discuss and share after about 5 minutes of reading. Slide 13 has the 5 discussion questions listed to help each group answer the objective.

Assessment/Reflection

- Hand each student a sticky note, reminding them of the lesson’s objective, and ask them to list one piece of information they learned from the lesson and have them put it on the board.
 - To lighten the mood as students leave class, play the U2 music video for the song “Walk On,” and explain that it was made by MTV to honor the heroes and first responders on 9/11.
-

Common Core Alignments

These alignments were written for the 7th grade level. However, this lesson can easily be adjusted for use in other grades and corresponds to the following Common Core Standards. Student assessments and expectation may vary depending upon grade level and ability.

ELA Standards for Speaking & Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Standard 1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Standard 1C: Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.
- Standard 1D: Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.
- Standard 2: Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.