

Lesson Topic: 9/11

Created/Modified By:

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Objective: Today's learning is to **KNOW** the events of September 11, 2001 and **UNDERSTAND** how life has changed since that day

Materials Needed:

- [KWL ½ sheet](https://goo.gl/DvA6bJ) (1 per scholar) <https://goo.gl/DvA6bJ>
- [9/11 Slides Presentation](https://goo.gl/4fsTVc) (whole class) <https://goo.gl/4fsTVc>
- ["5 Ways Life Has Changed Since 9/11" Article](https://goo.gl/pbC48S) (1 per scholar) <https://goo.gl/pbC48S>
- Sticky Notes (1 per scholar)

Access to video clips

- CBS News Coverage "President Bush Visits Ground Zero" <https://goo.gl/iNjvYY>
- U2 "Walk On 9/11" <https://goo.gl/dbjm5z>
- CNN 10 "9/11 Memorial" <https://goo.gl/R5BFjC>

Introduction/Hook:

I hand each scholar a ½ sheet of paper to track their thoughts and reflections during the class period. The format is a [KWL chart](#) where K represents things they already know, W represents things they want to know (questions), and the L represents things they learned from the day. I let them know that we will be learning about the events of September 11, 2001--an event that none of my scholars were alive for. I myself was a Fourth Grade student and can remember aspects of that day. I read the objective for the lesson to the class and we are ready to get started. (Slide 1 from the [presentation](#))

I give the scholars 3-4 minutes to fill out the K and W sections of their chart. Then I start to elicit responses from the class and list their pieces of information on a KWL chart that I have drawn on the whiteboard. It is important to see what they want to learn about so I can try to touch on those subjects throughout the class period.

I tell the scholars that we will be reading about one person's experience that day. I tell them that story was taken from our local newspaper, *The Lincoln Journal Star*, from its Tenth Anniversary coverage of 9/11. I project slides 3-4 to the class, reading it aloud. After completing the story, I ask the scholars to describe how the (unknown) author felt during 9/11/01 and discuss how someone could have that much emotion even though they weren't in New York City on 9/11. I then go to slide 5 which reveals that the author of the story was myself--to the shock of the

scholars. I explain to them that I was in 4th grade and the article was my reflections ten years later. This has set the hook and now we are ready to begin learning.

Body of Lesson:

1) I start with slide 6 that defines a couple of key terms that the scholars will be hearing throughout the lesson today (Islam, Muslim, Terrorism, Al Qaeda). This lesson usually follows our introduction to world religions unit so it is a nice review and opportunity for me to remind the scholars that not all Muslims are terrorists (an unfortunate stereotype our society has). I also remind them to fill out their KWL chart throughout the day, especially adding to the L (learn) section when they learn something of note. I also remind them to ask questions when they are wondering about something they see or hear.

2) Next we will go through slides 7-8 which provide context and common facts and figures about September 11th. When we arrive at slides 9-10, I turn the focus to President Bush and tie the events of 9/11 to Omaha, Nebraska a city just up the road from our scholars in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have pictures from the SAC Museum in Ashland, NE that show the desk that President Bush used at Offutt Air Force Base, when he landed there on 9/11. This provides a local connection that usually surprises most of the scholars.

3) The next couple of slides have news clips and a GIF embedded to show the massive impact 9/11 had on the rest of the USA. 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.

4) Next we take a short break from the presentation and I hand each scholar a copy of an article titled "[5 Ways Life Has Changed Since 9/11](#)". This will help us answer the second part of our objective which is to understand how life has changed since 9/11. I break up the article into the 5 sections and assign each of my table groups a section to share out after about 5 minutes of reading. Slide 13 has the 5 discussion questions listed to help each table group answer the objective.

5) Slides 14 and 15 show the physical ways life has changed because of 9/11 with images of the NYC skyline and 9/11 Memorial and Museum. On slide 16, we watch a segment from CNN 10 (aka CNN Student News) that provides scholars with an opportunity to see inside the 9/11 Museum. I have never had the opportunity to visit New York so this provides the scholars a first-hand look at the good work the museum does.

6) This year I also wanted to highlight the new memorial in Shanksville, PA honoring Flight United 93 so we found some news coverage of the new wind chime memorial there.

7) After that we view slide 17 which has a quote from President Bush that is supposed to bring a feeling of hope to the scholars as by this point, we have covered a lot of difficult information.

8) The end of the presentation concludes with slides 18-19 where the scholars finish up 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.

Closure:

I hand each scholar a sticky note, reminding them of our 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 they leave class, I show them slide 20 which is a [music video by the band U2 for the song "Walk On"](#). This was a special video that was made by MTV to honor the heroes and first responders on that fateful day. This is where the tears start to flow and the scholars remark about how powerful the lesson was.

Student Work Sample: (proof that we actually did this lesson)