



Inspiring Service in the Classroom

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Grade level: 2

Length: 1-2 class periods

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

To understand the impact the 9/11 attacks have on the world and the idea of community, inspiring global outreach and service within the local community.

Common Core Standards

Comprehensive Common Core Alignments at end of lesson plan.

Reading Standards for Literature: 1, 2, 3

Resources

- [Placing 9/11 In A Global Context](#) Excerpt
- [“What Happened on September 11”](#), HBO
- [“Message on a Wing”](#) by Ericco

Preparation

- Discuss with students what they know about 9/11, connections they might have to the events, or questions about the day. Talk about the many different ways that people and communities came together to help during and after 9/11.
- Read “Message on a Wing” to the class. It is inspired by the story of a young Japanese girl who, after getting ill due to the effects of the atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima, folded a thousand paper cranes to wish for peace and healing for herself and other victims. Students should actively listen for the following:
 - Who is the story is about?
 - What does the paper crane symbolize?

Activity

Students will learn how to fold a paper crane and, similarly to the girl in the book, send them to pen pals at a different school or in a different community to show that someone far away is thinking about them. For an example of this, we corresponded with a school devastated by Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Assessment/Reflection

Students should write a journal reflection about their experience, including a summary of the “Message on a Wing” story and a brainstorm of other ways that they can give back to their community.

Common Core Alignments

These alignments were written for the 2nd 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.

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Standard 1: Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Standard 2: Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- Standard 3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.