

# What Happened on 9/11?

Smith, N. What happened on 9/11? Scholastic News for Kids. Sept. 10, 2013.

There are **two** parts to this assignment. In order to receive the extra credit, **BOTH** parts must be turned in **COMPLETED** on 9/12. To complete Part I read the article and answer the questions. To complete Part II you will need to complete the interview.

## Part 1: Read the following and answer the questions.

### WORDS TO KNOW

**Terrorists:** people or groups who use violence in an attempt to achieve their political or religious goals

**Hijacked:** took control of

**Democratic:** to do with a form of government in which the people choose their leaders in elections

**Dictator:** someone who has complete control of a country, often ruling it unjustly

**Cabinet:** a group of advisers for the head of a government. In the U.S., the Cabinet advises the President and is composed of the leaders of government departments

### What happened that day?

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States. They hijacked four airplanes in mid-flight. The terrorists flew two of the planes into two skyscrapers at the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact caused the buildings to catch fire and collapse. Another plane destroyed part of the Pentagon (the U.S. military headquarters) in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Officials believe that the terrorists on that plane intended to destroy either the White House or the U.S. Capitol. Passengers on the plane fought the terrorists and prevented them from reaching their goal. In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks.

### Who attacked us?

A total of 19 terrorists hijacked the four planes on 9/11. All of the men were from nations in the Middle East. They belonged to a terrorist group called Al Qaeda (ahl KAY-dah), led by Osama bin Laden. Al Qaeda practices an extreme version of the religion of Islam. The group is intensely opposed to the United States and other Western, democratic nations. They are especially against the military presence of these countries in Arab nations. Since the group's creation by bin Laden in the late 1980s, Al Qaeda has helped coordinate and fund numerous bombings worldwide.

### How did America respond to 9/11?

In October 2001, the U.S. and its allies invaded Afghanistan, where Al Qaeda was based. The extreme Islamic group that ran Afghanistan's government, known as the Taliban, was protecting Bin Laden and allowing Al Qaeda to run training camps in the country. U.S.-led forces soon brought down the Taliban. They are still working to help rebuild and stabilize the nation. Since 2001, many Al Qaeda members have been captured or killed. On May 1, 2011, U.S. troops killed Bin Laden where he was hiding in Pakistan.

The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003. Then President George W. Bush and other U.S. leaders believed that the country's dictator, Saddam Hussein, was hiding terrible weapons that could be given to terrorists. Hussein was captured and later put to death by an Iraqi court. No weapons of mass destruction were found.

### How did America change after 9/11?

Following 9/11, the U.S. government took many steps to try to make the country safer. It tightened security at airports and in public buildings. A new cabinet-level department—the Department of Homeland Security—was created. It works to protect the United States from terrorism.

**Answer each question in one or more complete sentences.**

1. Who was the dictator of Iraq in 2001?
2. Name the U. S. military headquarters in Washington D.C.
3. What new cabinet level department was created within the U.S. government after 9/11?
4. For what news agency does the person who took the picture attached to the article work?
5. Who was president of the U.S. in 2003?
6. What three locations were targeted by planes on 9/11?
7. What accusation did the U.S. and its allies make about Saddam Hussein? Was this information proven true or false?
8. What is the central idea of this article? For whom was the article intended? In roughly three sentences, summarize the information presented.
9. Use each of the five “words to know” listed at the beginning of the article in a well-written sentence related to the topic of the article. (You will write 5 sentences, each using one of the terms.) DO NOT use a sentence that simply defines the word; instead, use the word in a sentence that will help others to make sense of the article. Write your own original sentences rather than copying sentences from the text.

## *Part II: Interview on September 11, 2001*

You will earn a higher grade with more detailed responses to these questions. As the interviewer, you may need to prompt your interviewee for further detail. Always proofread your work prior to handing it in.

Who did you interview? \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Questions for interview:*

1. Where were you when the attacks occurred?
2. How did you find out about the attacks?  
What were your first feelings/emotions when you heard about the attacks?
3. Did you know anyone in the Towers, Pentagon or one of the planes? If yes, did they survive? **OR** Do you know anyone who knew of anyone in the Towers, Pentagon, or on any of the planes? Explain who and what happened to them.
4. Have you visited Ground Zero? If yes, how did you feel when you went? **OR** If not, how do you feel about the idea of rebuilding the towers?
5. Do you “relive” the feelings you felt when the attack actually happened when you see videos or read articles? Explain how it makes you feel.
6. How did the nation and its leaders come together in the days following September 11?
7. What role do you think that passengers, airlines, airport authorities and other officials should play in air travel security? In your opinion, what, if anything else, should be done to promote secure air travel?
8. What aspects of American life do you think were changed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks?
9. What are your thoughts and feelings toward the killing of Osama Bin Laden? Why do you feel this way? Explain.
10. In your opinion, are there any lessons to be learned from what happened on September 11, 2001? Explain.