

9/11: RELICS FROM THE WRECKAGE

REMEMBERING 9/11

HOW DO YOU HONOR the memory and legacy of over 3,000 lives lost to the terror attacks of 9/11? That is the challenge facing the creators of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. They must commemorate the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children who never came home that day in 2001, and educate generations of visitors who weren't born when the attacks took place. Museum president Joe Daniels introduces us to the museum still under construction and the artifacts chosen to tell the world the story of 9/11.

9/11: Relics From the Wreckage gives students a way to reflect on 9/11 through learning the stories behind significant artifacts that survived the attacks. **The artifacts featured in this program are also available online at www.history.com/topics/remembering-911.** Each of the Emmy® Award-winning videos in the *Remembering 9/11* series tells the story of one item and the lives it touched on its way to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. This program provides an opportunity to honor and commemorate those who lost their lives on 9/11 and to explore the historical significance of the attacks.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

This program is useful for eighth-graders and above, including college students. It is a good fit for history, global studies, journalism, politics, or current events courses, or for lesson plans related to 9/11. Due to sensitive content, we recommend that teachers view this program before recommending it to students.

Note to teachers and parents: Teaching about 9/11 can be very difficult, bringing up complex emotions for students if they remember that day and presenting challenges for students who are too young to remember. These short videos provide one way to engage students in meaningful conversations about 9/11 and the effects of the attacks on those who lived through them. You can find many more additional resources on the websites linked at the end of this guide for talking to students about 9/11 and introducing them to these complex topics.

Pre-viewing Discussion: Before watching this video, it will be helpful to explain or review the following terms to students: **9/11, Ground Zero, artifact, preservation and memorial.**

Featured Stories:

REMEMBERING 9/11: THE GROUND ZERO BIBLE

www.history.com/topics/remembering-911/videos#remembering-911-the-ground-zero-bible

A Bible found in the rubble of Ground Zero survives in the hands of a photographer. Joel Meyerowitz tells the story of the Bible's discovery and the reasons he preserved it for the future by donating it to the National September 11 Museum.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Joel Meyerowitz say about the connection between smell and memory when he is handling 9/11 artifacts? Have you ever noticed the connection between smell and memory?
2. Pause the video when Meyerowitz looks at the photo of Ground Zero after the attacks. What does this photo reveal about the damage in the area? Given the damage, why is it surprising that the Bible survived?
3. How did Meyerowitz preserve the Bible? Why do you think it was important that he gave the Bible to the museum?

NOTE: The National Archives has a great resource for analyzing photographs: www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf



The Ground Zero Bible



REMEMBERING 9/11: KARYN'S WINGS

www.history.com/topics/remembering-911/videos#remembering-911-karyns-wings

After Mike Low's daughter Sara lost her life on 9/11, he received airline wings from a fellow flight attendant in honor of her memory. The wings then took flight from Arkansas to Afghanistan and carried with them the love of a mourning father.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Mike Low receive the airline wings in honor of his daughter's memory?
2. Why do you think Mr. Low wanted the wings to go into combat with a soldier?
3. Why do you think First Sergeant Baker decided to wear the wings into combat?
What does he say the wings symbolize?



REMEMBERING 9/11: THE GROUND ZERO CROSS

www.history.com/videos/remembering-911-the-ground-zero-cross#remembering-911-the-ground-zero-cross

Out of the rubble of the World Trade Center rose a symbol of hope for many in the days after 9/11. This video explores the existence of a cross-shaped structure at Ground Zero and its significance for those who survived the attacks and help with rebuilding the area.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the photos you see in this video reveal about the destruction at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks?
2. What do you think the significance of the "Ground Zero cross" was for people at the site when they first discovered it?
3. What do the speakers in this video say about the importance of the cross?
What did it symbolize?

The cross discovered at Ground Zero

REMEMBERING 9/11: THE PHOTO ARCHIVE

www.history.com/topics/remembering-911/videos#remembering-911-the-photo-archive

Joel Meyerowitz took photos at Ground Zero in the wake of the destruction and for months after the attacks as workers cleaned up and rebuilt. In this video, he tells the story of why he decided to document this history and donate the photos to the National September 11 Museum.

1. What does Joel Meyerowitz say about his decision to photograph the destruction and rebuilding of the Ground Zero site?
2. Why do you think it was important for photographers to document the destruction at Ground Zero and the rebuilding of the area?
3. Why did he decide to donate his photographs to the September 11 Museum?



9/11 photographer Joel Meyerowitz





Ground Zero elevator motor

REMEMBERING 9/11: THE ELEVATOR MOTOR

www.history.com/topics/remembering-911/videos#remembering-911-the-elevator-motor

The elevators at the World Trade Center helped move thousands of people up and down day after day. On 9/11, they became a vital conduit for those who attempted to escape the building during the attacks. This video tells the story of one survivor.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the elevator motors at the World Trade Center so important?
2. What happened to Chris Young on 9/11? What does he say about his feelings about the elevators at the World Trade Center? How might his experience differ from others who were at the site on the day of the 9/11 attacks?
3. Some might think an elevator motor is an odd addition to a museum. Why do you think it will be included in the September 11 Museum?

Related Activities:

1. After watching one or more of these videos, ask students to write a journal entry, letter or other reflection about what they learned. What were the effects of the 9/11 attacks? How do artifacts preserve the memory of this day and its aftermath?
2. Students can visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum online to learn about other artifacts that will be in the museum at www.911memorial.org/collection. Students can write an essay about one of the items featured in the video series or on the website explaining its significance.
3. After watching these videos, ask students to do their own research about 9/11 and then consider an item or artifact they think should be included in the National September 11 Museum. Why is the item important? Write a short essay about the importance of preserving objects and what they tell us about events such as the 9/11 attacks.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

HISTORY® 9/11 Anniversary and Remembering 9/11 sites:

www.history.com/9-11-anniversary

www.history.com/topics/remembering-911

September 11 Memorial & Museum: Talking to Children About 9/11:

www.911memorial.org/talk-children-about-911

9/11 FAQs From the September 11 Memorial & Museum:

www.911memorial.org/faq-about-911

Additional Teaching Resources From the September 11 Memorial & Museum:

www.911memorial.org/teach-learn

