



SEPT 11
2001

HOW-TO GUIDE

FOR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS



#15SeptembersLater

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 changed the U.S., and the world, forever. For those who were old enough to watch those events unfold, that day and the aftermath of the attacks has left an indelible mark. For those too young to remember, the legacy of 9/11 still shapes their lives as a central event in world history.

Many schools will want to commemorate anniversary of September 11, 2001 and to honor and remember those who lost their lives and the first responders who sacrificed so much to help people in the wake of the attacks. HISTORY® offers this guide to provide suggestions for 9/11 activities and commemorations.

#15SeptembersLater

To commemorate the 15th Anniversary of 9/11/2001, share messages and photos of hope with HISTORY via a custom hashtag (#15SeptembersLater). You can participate by posting a tweet or photo using #15SeptembersLater, or uploading your message directly on the site: www.history.com/15-septembers-later



COMMUNITY AND ALL-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1. Organize a community commemoration or all-school assembly with simple readings or announcements about why we remember 9/11 and those who lost their lives.

Since September 11th falls on a Sunday, schools may want to organize these assemblies on Friday, September 9th or Monday, September 12th.

2. Communities and schools throughout the world often observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. on 9/11, the time at which American Flight 11 hit the North Tower. Organize a moment of silence in your community.
3. Many communities were affected by 9/11 and lost family and friends in this tragedy. Students can create memorials or artwork of some kind to honor those who were lost. Communities may want to dedicate a memorial, a plaque, or plant a tree to honor those in your community who were lost.
4. Visit [History.com](https://www.history.com) to view short videos by those who remember 9/11. Students can write a short paper or response to one of these videos. What was most powerful or surprising about the memories and stories they heard?
5. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum features excellent resources for teachers and students. Visit www.911memorial.org/teach-learn for resources, lesson plans and additional tools for learning about 9/11.
6. Many brave Americans – from firefighters to police to everyday citizens– courageously helped others on 9/11 and in the aftermath of the attacks. Schools may want to establish a “Community Spirit Award” to honor those in your community who have contributed to making your school a better place. These awards can be offered in honor of the outpouring of sacrifice and generosity after 9/11 that so many Americans remember.
7. Collect small contributions for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, the Flight 93 National Memorial, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, or another 9/11 Memorial of your choice.
8. Another way to honor the memory of 9/11 is for students to donate time through service projects. Visit 911day.org to get started and to learn about the Tomorrow Together campaign.
9. Many journalists and historians have written about 9/11 related events and the war on terrorism that followed. Invite a guest speaker to give a lecture in your community about a topic related to 9/11.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. In classroom time, have students review a timeline of what occurred on September 11th, 2001. Review on a map where and when the 9/11 attacks took place. Advanced high school and college students can also review the 9/11 Commission Report. Visit History.com at www.history.com/topics/9-11-timeline or September 11 Memorial & Museum online at www.911memorial.org to locate a timeline.
2. Have students take time for a free-writing exercise about 9/11/2001, how it changed the world and what they have learned about that day from others. Have students share these writings, if they feel comfortable, in a larger class or group.
3. Creative projects can be an effective way for students to work through their emotions about difficult topics such as 9/11. Working in small groups, have students design a mural or poster about 9/11 and what it means to them. Students may also want to design their own 9/11 memorial.
4. Have students locate newspaper articles published in the days after 9/11 online or at the library and create a 9/11 scrapbook or notebook. Students can also learn about how to preserve newspapers, magazines and other items related to 9/11 and other historical events. The New York State Archives 9/11 Memory & History site has great tips for preserving related items: www.nyshrab.org/memory/index.shtml
5. Middle school and high school students can play a role in preserving the history of 9/11 by interviewing community members about their memories of what happened that day. You may want to link with a local history museum or historic society to organize a 9/11 oral history project.



REMEMBERING 9 / 11 . . .

...Through Music

Communities and schools can consider integrating music into 9/11 assemblies or classroom activities. Songs such as Bruce Springsteen's "Empty Sky" captured emotions post-9/11. Students can play a role in choosing meaningful songs that can help commemorate 9/11 or honor those who were lost.

...Through Poetry

Poems and other short readings can spark discussions or can be a meaningful contribution to assemblies. After 9/11, many Americans read W.H. Auden's poem "September 1, 1939" to find meaning or solace. Below is the last stanza of that poem. Students can choose their own poems, or write their own, related to 9/11.

Defenseless under the night Our world in stupor lies; Yet, dotted
everywhere, Ironical points of light
Flash out wherever the Just Exchange their messages: May I, composed like
them Of Eros and of dust, Beleaguered by the same Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.

- *W.H. Auden, September 1, 1939 (excerpt)*

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HISTORY: DOCUMENTING 9/11

HISTORY has produced several important specials that capture the experiences of those who lived through 9/11. These programs also give context for the timeline of events and insight gathered in the aftermath.

Please Note: many of these programs include content that is graphic in nature and difficult to watch. They are not recommended for students below high school age; adults should watch all programs before showing them to their students or children.

15 Septembers Later
(Premieres 9/5/2016 at 9/8c)

102 Minutes That Changed America: 15th Anniversary Edition
(Premieres 9/11/2016 at 8/7c)

America's 9/11 Flag: Rise From the Ashes
(Premieres 9/11/2016 at 10:30/9:30)

Visit www.history.com/schedule for additional air times and program schedules.

Related Websites:

History.com:

Background, video, and photos: www.history.com/topics/9-11-attacks

Tips for talking to children, from the National September 11 Memorial and Museum:

www.911memorial.org/talking-your-children-about-911

Flight 93 National Memorial:

www.honorflight93.org

National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial:

pentagonmemorial.org

9/11 Commission Report:

www.9-11commission.gov/report/911report.pdf (Another useful version of this report: Jacobson, Sid and Ernie Colon, *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation*. (Hill & Wang, 2006).