

Lesson: What Happened on 9/11?

Objectives:

- Students will understand that two planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11th 2001.
- Students will understand that the bombings of the World Trade Center caused many people to die.
- Students will understand that many people fought to save the lives of those hurt by the World Trade Center attacks.

Advance Organizer

- Ask students the following while pointing to the calendar: Does anyone in this class know what (say the day of the week that September 11th falls on i.e. Wednesday's) date is? Has anyone heard about the day September 11th before or anything special that happened on this day several years ago? If no students offer any information indicate to the students that they will be learning about that day in America's history in class.

Methods

1. Show students the cover of the book *September 11, 2001: A Simple Account for Children* by Nancy Poffenberger and Val Gottesman
2. Have students make predictions about the book based off of the illustrations and title. Possible questions to ask:
 - What is the picture of on the cover?
 - If the illustrator drew an American flag, what do you think the story might have to do with?
 - Who can read the title for me?
 - What do you think this story will be about?
3. Read the story to the class making sure to ask questions about the pictures and what is going on in the story. Take time to answer students' questions as they arise throughout the story as well.
4. Ask students the following question:
 - After reading this story who can tell me some of the things that happened on September 11, 2001?Record all answers on the board or large sheet of poster paper underneath the heading "September 11, 2001."
Ask students the following question:
 - Why do you think it is important to discuss 9/11 today? Why should we remember this day?
5. Write the word "feelings" on another part of the board or another poster sheet. Ask students the following questions and record answers underneath that word:
 - How does this story make you feel? Why?
 - What was the most interesting part of this real life story?
 - How would you have felt if you were in the WTC?

- How would you have felt if you were a firefighter? Rescue team member?

Closure:

6. To close this lesson take the time to have students share any further questions they may have about this topic. Record those questions somewhere on the board so that you can refer to them throughout your unit on 9/11 and make sure to address as many of them as possible.

Assessment:

- Monitor and observe participation throughout story. Take note of student responses to covered words and those students who raise their hands.
- Observe students to make sure they are following along and paying attention to story by asking questions that require both individual response and whole group responses like raised thumbs.
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Illinois Learning Standard Addressed:

- 16.A.1b Ask historical questions and seek out answers from historical sources (e.g., myths, biographies, stories, old photographs, artwork, other visual or electronic sources).
- 16.B.1b (US) Explain why individuals, groups, issues and events are celebrated with local, state or national holidays or days of recognition

Adaptations:

Gifted Students: For students who can read, have them help you read the title of the story or certain parts of the book to allow them to share their skills with the class.

Less advanced students: Please allow more time for students to answer questions and reflect on their thoughts

Students with Visual or Auditory Impairments: Make sure to read the story in a clear and audible voice, pausing for questions. If you have access to a microphone, use that to help students hear the story. Record in clear bold font both responses and questions on the board or large poster sheet so that all students may see the words.