

## Why "Patriot Day"?

### DIRECTIONS

Read the article below, which details the events of 9/11/01. After reading the article, turn your paper over and answer the corresponding questions.



### Remembering September 11th – background information for students



Sixteen years ago on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four planes in a coordinated terrorist attack. Two planes crashed into the Twin Towers in downtown New York City, a third plane flew into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the final plane was brought down by passengers, who had become aware of the other attacks, in a field in Pennsylvania. 2,977 people died in the attacks, including civilians, military personnel in the Pentagon and the emergency first responders who arrived at the scene of the attacks.

In response to the attacks, President George W. Bush announced that any nation that supported terrorism or was found to be harboring terrorists would be considered an enemy of the United States. At that time, the government of Afghanistan was ruled by the Taliban, an extremist Muslim political movement, who refused to shut down known terrorist training camps or give up suspected terrorists to the United States. Within a month, the United States invaded Afghanistan and began a war to weaken al-Qaeda and the Taliban government who protected them. Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda and one of the masterminds behind the attacks, went into hiding. U.S. special forces found and killed him in Pakistan in the spring of 2011.

The attack on U.S. soil was the second ever in the history of the country following the attacks on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. It had a profound impact on both the United States as well as the rest of the world. The U.S. Congress designated Sept. 11 as "Patriot Day" and is today observed to remember and honor those who died in the attacks. On this day, flags are set to half-staff and many observe a moment of silence at 8:46 am, the time when the attacks began.

1. When did the events take place?
2. What extremist group, was responsible for the coordinated terrorist attack?
3. Terrorists crashed planes into what two major structures in New York City?
4. What was attacked in Washington, D.C.?
5. What happened in Pennsylvania?
6. How many people died that day?
7. Who was the President of the U.S. on that day?
8. Why did the U.S. invade the country of Afghanistan?
9. Who was Osama Bin Laden?
10. What is the purpose of "Patriot Day", and when is it held every year?