



Resources for Teaching About the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

August, 2022

Since [Congress designated 9/11](#) as the **September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance**, we have heard from educators that teaching about 9/11 is both important and very complicated. Teachers know they must consider what is age-appropriate, what aligns with their standards and curriculum, and how to make their lessons meaningful to students who may have very limited understanding of how 9/11 and its aftermath continue to impact people in our country and around the world to this day. Teaching about [9/11 can also be difficult](#) because teachers and members of their school community may know people who were lost or wounded that day or in subsequent wars or they may have experienced the anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant intolerance that followed. Given the complexity of the subject, teachers are often looking for [background information](#) and high-quality resources beyond what they may find in their textbooks.

The teaching materials and resources below include a range of primary sources, activities, and lesson plans for teaching different aspects and themes of 9/11 to various age groups. They also align with how the [teaching of 9/11 has evolved](#) in the last 20 years to meet new standards such as the newly revised Maryland [State Standards](#) , the College, Career, and Civic Life ([C3](#)) Framework, and the [Roadmap to Educating for American Democracy](#).

In keeping with the call to service on 9/11, we have included several resources for educators who want to incorporate service and service-learning into their teaching, as well. September 11th provides an opportunity for teachers and students to transform the day into one of service and civic engagement. ([Click here](#) to find a list of service projects in your area.)

We'd love to see your 9/11 lessons and service in action and to connect teachers across the state with each other. Please use **#EdTerpsEngage #911Day** when sharing on social media! **We would also love your feedback on this teaching guide!** This [brief survey](#) should take no more than five minutes!

Resource	Grade Levels	Brief Description
University of Wisconsin-Madison: Teaching 9/11 and the War on Terror Beyond the 20th Anniversary	Not specified but appropriate for more mature students	This resource includes teaching guides , primary sources , and research for teaching about 9/11 beyond the 20th anniversary. There is also a section with links to additional resources such as a guide to teaching against Islamophobia . The teaching guides focus on analyzing different primary sources using a podcast examining the history of Islam in the United States as an exemplar, while the primary sources include essential questions and can be paired with the primary sources teaching guides.

Youth Service America: 10 Project Ideas	K-12	This resource suggests ideas for service projects related to some of the impacts of 9/11, such as a recognition that people can come together to build community, that the nation reflects a global community, an appreciation for first responders, a renewed sense of patriotism, etc. The website includes multiple resources including a Service Project Planning sheet .
9/11 Memorial & Museum: Lesson Plans	3-12 (3-5, 6-8, 9-12)	These detailed lessons provide students with historical background about different aspects of 9/11. Lessons include primary and secondary sources such as interviews with survivors, artwork, and news reports from the aftermath of the attack. In addition to gaining knowledge on the attacks of 9/11 and the fight against terrorism, students are asked to consider how we memorialize the attacks and how we balance freedom and safety.
Scholastic: 9/11 Interview	6-8 with extension for 9-12	This lesson has students conduct interviews to record first person accounts of 9/11. The plan provides resources for students on the history of 9/11 and on how to conduct interviews.
Morningside: 9/11 Teachable Moments	K-12 (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)	For grades K-5, the lessons focus on making students feel safe, sharing their opinions respectfully, and addressing their questions in an age-appropriate way. In middle school, students interview adults in their lives about 9/11 and share their stories with the class. The high school lessons focus on students' responses to attending 9/11 memorial ceremonies. Additionally, for each lesson there are additional activities and the website includes other resources such as a guide for teaching controversial issues and book recommendations.
KQED: Legacy of 9/11	Not specified but appropriate for more mature students	This lesson plan explores how the world changed in the aftermath of 9/11. The accompanying article addresses four major changes: the U.S. involvement in the war on terror, changes in immigration and deportation policy in the U.S., changes in airport security measures, and surveillance in the U.S.
Media Education Lab: Memories of 9/11	Not specified but appropriate for more mature students	This series of lessons explores primary sources through analysis of newspapers and oral histories. Additionally, students are asked to listen and respond to other people's reactions to 9/11. Lesson 2 uses the series Our City, Our Stories which can be found here and here . Lesson 3 requires a FlipGrid account.
Constitutional Rights Foundation (multiple links)	9-12	One lesson focuses on having students organize a teach-in on 9/11 . Another lesson asks students to consider what is the appropriate balance between national security and individual rights. It includes links to background information on <i>The Patriot Act</i> and sources arguing for or against the law. There is a general lesson in which students consider whether people convicted of crimes motivated by hate should be punished more strictly. There are also three Bill of Rights-themed lessons about the rule of law in dangerous times (Democracy in Athens , Freedom of the Press , and Warrantless Wiretaps).

<p>Center for Islam in the Contemporary World: Culturally Responsive 9/11 Teaching</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>This website focuses on teaching about 9/11 in ways that are inclusive and do not reproduce anti-Muslim racism. Teacher resources on the site include links to lessons about 9/11 and a presentation about how educators can use culturally responsive teaching in lessons about 9/11 and research on the experience of Muslim students in schools.</p>
<p>United States Department of Education: Lesson Plan List</p>	<p>Not specified but appropriate for more mature students</p>	<p>This page contains numerous lesson plans and resources, including a set of lessons from the Center for Civic Education connects the Constitution to 9/11, the AmeriCorps 9/11 Day page with project ideas, the Library of Congress 9/11 Documentary Project, the 9/11 Commission Records from the National Archives, and the Flight 93 National Memorial. (Note: some links on the site are not working.)</p>
<p>National Geographic: Articles and Artifacts</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>While there are not full lesson plans, National Geographic has articles to provide background information on 9/11. There are also collections of photographs and a photo gallery of 9/11 artifacts.</p>

This list was curated by the University of Maryland's College of Education's *Civic Education & Engagement Initiative* with support from Youth Service America (YSA) and AmeriCorps.

