

9/11 MEMORIAL

Foundational Activity

LESSON TITLE: **INTRODUCING 9/11**

Common Core Standards

SL 1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

WHST 7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

What were the Twin Towers?

What was the World Trade Center?

What happened on 9/11?

What happened in the aftermath of the attacks?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

Students will become familiar with the World Trade Center and Twin Towers before 9/11.

Students will understand what happened on 9/11 and during its aftermath.

Key Terms

World Trade Center

Twin Towers

9/11

Islamist Extremist

Materials

Chart paper or Whiteboard

Attached images of the Twin Towers

Background for lesson

This lesson serves as an introduction to the attacks. Background for teachers can be found in the [9/11 FAQ](#). For younger students, see the [9/11 Fact Sheet For Early Childhood Students](#) in the *Teaching Guide* section of our website.

Books for further research:

[The 9/11 Commission Report](#)

by National Commission on Terrorist Attacks

**Background
for lesson**

The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation
by Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon

102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers
by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. As an introduction, write “9/11” on the board and create a large chart underneath with three columns: *Things you know*, *Things you think you know*, and *Things you wonder about*. Let students know that there are no wrong responses; this is a time to freely share their thoughts and questions.
 2. Populate the chart with student responses. Are there any conflicting statements? Are there common questions? Facilitate a discussion amongst your students around these inconsistencies, having them share their opinions and supporting evidence.
 3. Take this time to share a basic outline of what happened on 9/11, describing the World Trade Center and Twin Towers, and the attacks and their aftermath (see [9/11 FAQ](#) for basic information). Relevant images are included with these materials.
 4. Following this overview, ask your students if they have any remaining questions. If so, take time to address and answer as best you can. It’s all right if you don’t know the answer to every question. If you don’t know an answer, model yourself as a learner and explore the issue with your students together.
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**Evidence of
Understanding**

Students understanding will be highlighted during discussions and their writing activity.

**Extension
Activities**

Use the resources in the Background section for a longer-term exploration into the attacks and their aftermath.

Appendix

Selected Images of:

Twin Towers

- a. Image of the Twin Towers, July 4, 2001
- b. Image of the Twin Towers from the morning of 9/11

Towers on 9/11

- a. Close-up of the burning Twin Towers
- b. View of the smoking towers from Staten Island

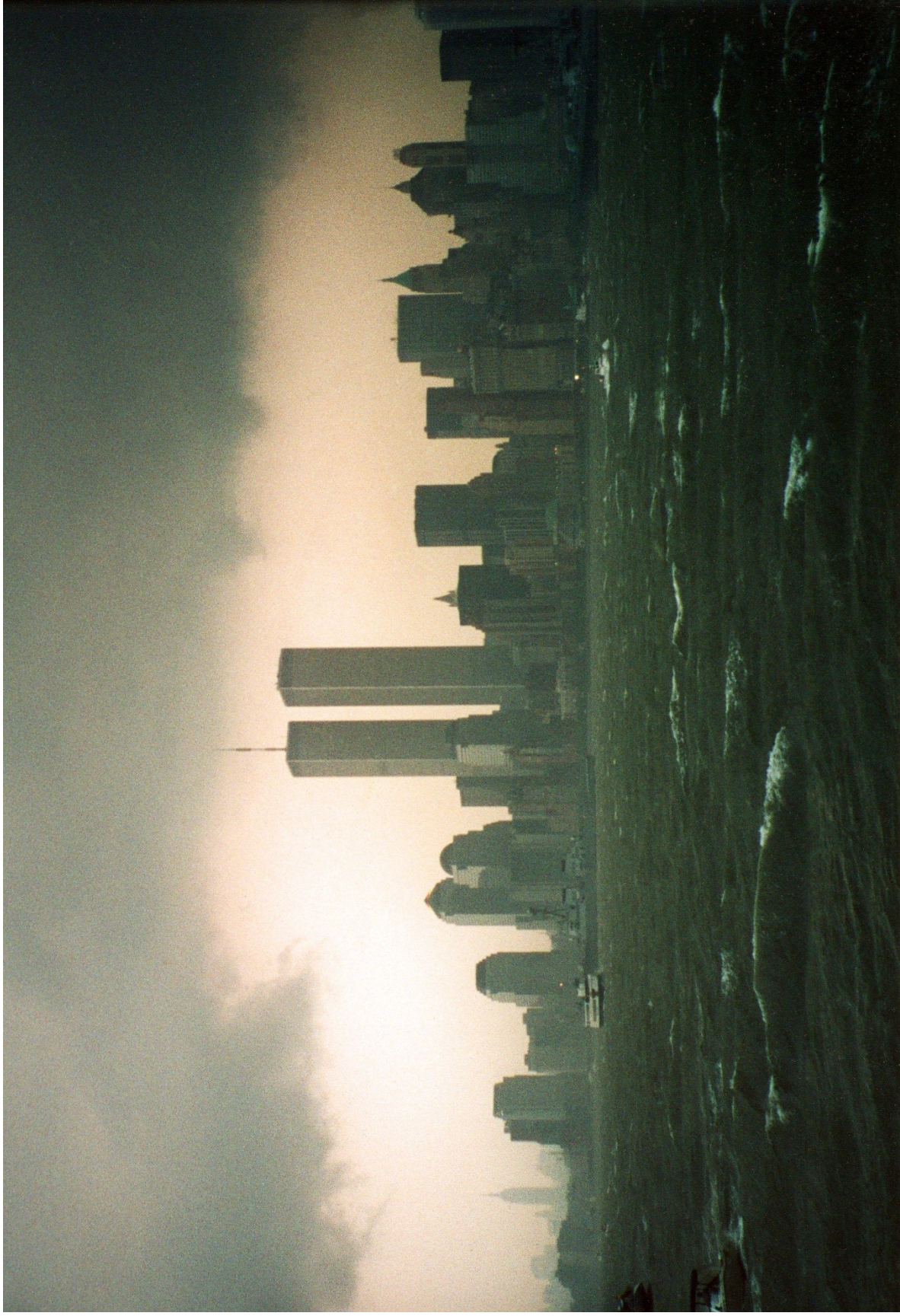


Image of the Twin Towers, July 4, 2001
Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Photograph © Roberto Rabanne.



View of lower Manhattan on the morning of September 11, 2001
Photograph by David Monderer. Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society.



Close-up of the burning Twin Towers
Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Photograph © Roberto Rabanne.



9/11 at the World Trade Center. The smoking towers from Staten Island.
Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Gift of Nicholas Kornfeld