

A Day That Changed

Read how September 11, 2001 affected people, government, and civic life.

SS.7.CG.4.4 "Explain the significance of September 11, 2001."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show human loss, circle details about government or community response, and number two details that show lasting changes. These marks will help you explain why September 11 was significant.

Why September 11 Matters

- ① On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists from the group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger airplanes in the United States. They crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York City. Another plane struck the Pentagon in Virginia. Passengers on the fourth plane fought back, and it crashed in a field in Pennsylvania before reaching its intended target. Nearly 3,000 people were killed. The attacks harmed people from many backgrounds and shocked people across the nation.
- ② The attacks had a lasting civic significance because they tested how the country responds to danger, loss, and fear. Firefighters, police officers, emergency medical workers, and ordinary people acted to rescue and assist others. Government leaders addressed the public, investigated the attacks, and worked with other nations against terrorism. Congress later created the Department of Homeland Security to help coordinate protection efforts. The attacks also led to changes in airport security, including stronger screening of passengers and bags.
- ③ September 11 is remembered not only as a tragedy but also as an event that changed public life and government policy. Each year, people hold ceremonies to honor those who died and the people who responded. Studying the attacks helps citizens understand why some security rules exist and how national emergencies can affect rights, responsibilities, and daily routines. It also raises an important civic question: how can a democracy protect people while respecting freedom and the rule of law?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage show that the attacks affected the whole nation, not only the places that were hit?

2 What are two ways people or government leaders responded to the attacks?

3 Name two lasting changes that resulted from the attacks.

4 What civic question does the passage raise about protecting people after a national emergency?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence caption for a school display that explains why September 11, 2001 was significant. Include one fact about the attacks, one response or policy change, and one idea about balancing safety and freedom.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show human loss, circle details about government or community response, and number two details that show lasting changes. These marks will help you explain why September 11 was significant. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage show that the attacks affected the whole nation, not only the places that were hit?	Nearly 3,000 people were killed, people from many backgrounds were harmed, and people across the nation were shocked.
2	What are two ways people or government leaders responded to the attacks?	Rescuers and ordinary people assisted others. Government leaders addressed the public, investigated the attacks, and worked with other nations against terrorism.
3	Name two lasting changes that resulted from the attacks.	Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, and airport screening of passengers and bags became stronger.
4	What civic question does the passage raise about protecting people after a national emergency?	How a democracy can protect people while respecting freedom and the rule of law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and deeply affected the nation. In response, rescuers aided survivors, and the government created new security efforts, including the Department of Homeland Security. The event remains significant because citizens must consider how safety policies can protect people while preserving freedom and the rule of law.

Accept equivalent details from the passage that connect the attacks to human loss, national response, lasting policy changes, remembrance, or civic responsibilities. For the open response, look for three sentences that include all required elements and accurately explain significance.