After the Blast

Trace the immediate and lasting effects of the Oklahoma City bombing.

OKH.C.8.5.A "Identify the effects of the domestic terrorist attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline two effects on people, circle two effects on places, and number two longer-term effects on public life. These marks will help you distinguish what happened right away from what changed later.

What Changed After April 19?

1. At 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995, a truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The attack was domestic terrorism, carried out by Americans with anti-government motives, not by a foreign army. The blast tore away much of the building's front and damaged nearby buildings and cars. It killed 168 people, including 19 children in the building's day care center, and injured hundreds more. Federal employees, visitors, and people nearby were among those harmed. For families, the losses meant empty seats at dinner tables and years of grief.

2. In the hours after the explosion, firefighters and other rescue workers searched unstable wreckage for survivors. Hospitals treated people with burns, broken bones, and other injuries, while volunteers offered supplies and support. Streets near the site closed as crews worked, interrupting daily routines for people who lived or worked nearby. The damage reached beyond the blast site: survivors faced painful recoveries, and children and adults who witnessed the attack carried frightening memories. Neighbors gave blood and helped families, showing how an attack on a federal building affected an entire community, not only the people inside it.

3. The bombing also changed decisions made long after the rescue ended. Federal officials reviewed security at public buildings, and some sites added barriers or moved vehicle parking farther from entrances. Congress passed a 1996 law aimed at combating terrorism, and debates followed about safety and civil liberties. The damaged Murrah Building was demolished, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial now honors those killed, survivors, and rescuers. Its empty chairs stand for the 168 people who died. Together, these responses show that the effects of domestic terrorism can shape public safety and collective memory for decades.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the attack affect people at the building and their families?

2. Identify two effects of the blast on places in or near the building.

3. How did the attack affect the community's work in the hours afterward?

4. Identify one lasting effect on public safety and one lasting effect on remembrance.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word caption for a museum display titled “What Changed After April 19?” Connect one immediate effect to a longer-term response, then explain a second lasting effect. Use at least three accurate details from the passage in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

After the Blast

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.5.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline two effects on people, circle two effects on places, and number two longer-term effects on public life. These marks will help you distinguish what happened right away from what changed later. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the attack affect people at the building and their families?	**It killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. Their families faced years of grief.**
2	Identify two effects of the blast on places in or near the building.	**It tore away much of the Murrah Building's front and damaged nearby buildings and cars.**
3	How did the attack affect the community's work in the hours afterward?	**Rescue workers searched unstable wreckage, hospitals treated injured people, and volunteers provided supplies and support.**
4	Identify one lasting effect on public safety and one lasting effect on remembrance.	**Some federal sites added barriers or moved parking farther from entrances. The Oklahoma City National Memorial honors those harmed, including the 168 people represented by empty chairs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The bombing shattered the Murrah Building and injured hundreds of people, so rescue workers searched dangerous wreckage while hospitals treated survivors. The destruction also raised questions about protecting public buildings. Later, some federal sites added barriers or placed parking farther from entrances. At the Oklahoma City National Memorial, 168 empty chairs honor the people killed. These changes cannot undo the losses, but they show two lasting responses: efforts to reduce danger and a place to remember those harmed.

Accept other effects stated in the passage when they fit the question. For the caption, look for a clear link between an immediate effect and a later response, a second lasting effect, and at least three accurate details.