After the Blast

Oklahoma's response, remembrance, and the Oklahoma Standard

OKH.C.8.5 "Analyze Oklahoma's response to acts of domestic terrorism. Identify the effects of the domestic terrorist attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Describe the volunteerism and heroism of responding Oklahomans..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects of the bombing, circle two examples of the Oklahoma Standard, and write 1 and 2 beside two details that show how the memorial supports remembrance or education.

How Oklahoma Responded

1. On April 19, 1995, a truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Timothy McVeigh carried out the bombing, with help from Terry Nichols. It was domestic terrorism, violence used to pursue a political aim by people within the United States. The blast tore away part of the building and damaged nearby streets and buildings. It killed 168 people, including 19 children, and injured hundreds more. Families lost loved ones, survivors faced lasting injuries and grief, and nearby businesses suffered extensive damage. The attack changed lives far beyond the building.

2. Within minutes, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical workers, and neighbors rushed to help. Rescuers searched unstable wreckage for survivors, while volunteers carried supplies, prepared meals, and supported families waiting for news. Some donated blood or offered places to stay. The work was dangerous: shifting debris and the possibility of further collapse threatened people inside the ruins. Responders had to balance speed with their own safety so they could keep helping others. This mix of skilled rescue and everyday care became known as the Oklahoma Standard, a commitment to meet others' needs with service, honor, and kindness.

3. The Oklahoma City National Memorial now stands at the site of the bombing. Its Outdoor Symbolic Memorial includes 168 empty chairs, one for each person killed, and the Survivor Tree, which endured the blast. These features invite visitors to consider individual lives and survival, not just a death toll. The Memorial Museum preserves evidence and personal stories to teach how the attack happened and how people responded. Through exhibits and remembrance events, the memorial continues its mission: to honor those killed, those who survived, and those changed forever, while helping visitors understand the impact of violence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the bombing affect both people and the area around the building? Give one effect of each.

2. Why did searching for survivors require both courage and caution? Use two details from the passage.

3. How do two kinds of volunteer help in the passage show the Oklahoma Standard?

4. How do the empty chairs and the Memorial Museum serve different parts of the memorial's mission?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 95 word announcement for a school day of remembrance. Explain one lasting effect of the attack, connect one specific response to the Oklahoma Standard, and propose one respectful action students could take today to support the memorial's purpose of remembrance and education; explain why your action fits.

ANSWER KEY

After the Blast

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two effects of the bombing, circle two examples of the Oklahoma Standard, and write 1 and 2 beside two details that show how the memorial supports remembrance or education. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the bombing affect both people and the area around the building? Give one effect of each.	**It killed 168 people and injured hundreds more; the blast also damaged nearby streets and buildings.**
2	Why did searching for survivors require both courage and caution? Use two details from the passage.	**Rescuers entered unstable wreckage to look for survivors, but shifting debris and possible collapse threatened their safety.**
3	How do two kinds of volunteer help in the passage show the Oklahoma Standard?	**Volunteers prepared meals for families and offered places to stay. Both actions put others' needs first through service and kindness.**
4	How do the empty chairs and the Memorial Museum serve different parts of the memorial's mission?	**The chairs honor each person killed. The museum uses evidence and personal stories to teach visitors about the attack, the response, and the impact of violence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On April 19, 1995, the bombing killed 168 people and left many families grieving. Neighbors who prepared meals for waiting families showed the Oklahoma Standard by serving people in a time of need. Today, our class could hold a quiet reading of survivors' accounts from the Memorial Museum, then write one fact and one question about the impact of violence. This would honor lives changed by the attack while helping us learn from real experiences rather than treating the bombing as just a number in a textbook.

Accept other passage-supported effects, responses, and memorial details. For the announcement, look for an original, respectful student action and an explanation of how it supports both remembrance and education.