Courage and Response

Read, mark, and summarize September 11 and its aftermath

USH.C.9.1.A "Summarize the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including examples of heroism and efforts to combat terrorism (e.g., creation of the Department of Homeland Security, passage of the PATRIOT Act)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the three places where planes crashed, underline two examples of heroism, and number the two federal responses 1 and 2. Use your marks to build a summary of the attacks and what followed.

September 11: Attacks and Responses

1. On September 11, 2001, 19 members of the terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger planes in the United States. They flew two planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, near Washington, D.C. The towers collapsed after the impacts and fires. The fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, before reaching its intended target. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks. Families across the country waited for news as rescue crews raced toward the crash sites.

2. At the World Trade Center, firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical workers entered damaged buildings and helped people escape, even as danger grew. Many rescuers died when the towers fell. On Flight 93, passengers and crew learned about the other hijackings through phone calls. They fought the hijackers, who then crashed the plane in Pennsylvania rather than striking another building. Everyone aboard died. These actions did not undo the losses, but they showed how ordinary people and trained responders took risks to protect others. In the days that followed, volunteers donated blood and supplied meals to rescue workers.

3. The federal government also changed how it tried to prevent attacks. Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001, expanding investigators' powers to gather information and track suspected terrorists. Some Americans worried that broader surveillance could threaten privacy and civil liberties. Congress created the Department of Homeland Security in 2002; it began operating in 2003. The new department brought together agencies responsible for tasks such as border security and emergency planning. These measures did not erase the damage of September 11. They were responses to a continuing question: how can the nation reduce the risk of terrorism while protecting people's rights?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In two sentences, summarize what happened to the four planes and where they ended up.

2. How did actions at the towers and on Flight 93 show heroism during the attacks?

3. Summarize how the PATRIOT Act and the Department of Homeland Security took different approaches to preventing terrorism.

4. What concern did the passage raise about a counterterrorism effort, and why does that concern belong in a summary of the nation's response?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label titled "What Happened, What Followed" for visitors who know little about September 11. In your own words, summarize the attacks, connect an example of courage to the events, explain both federal responses, and identify a concern one response raised.

ANSWER KEY

Courage and Response

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.9.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the three places where planes crashed, underline two examples of heroism, and number the two federal responses 1 and 2. Use your marks to build a summary of the attacks and what followed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In two sentences, summarize what happened to the four planes and where they ended up.	**Hijackers flew two planes into the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. A fourth plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew fought the hijackers.**
2	How did actions at the towers and on Flight 93 show heroism during the attacks?	**Responders entered the damaged towers to help people escape, while passengers and crew on Flight 93 fought the hijackers. Both groups risked their lives to protect others.**
3	Summarize how the PATRIOT Act and the Department of Homeland Security took different approaches to preventing terrorism.	**The PATRIOT Act expanded investigators' powers to gather information and track suspected terrorists. The Department of Homeland Security brought agencies together for work including border security and emergency planning.**
4	What concern did the passage raise about a counterterrorism effort, and why does that concern belong in a summary of the nation's response?	**Some Americans worried that broader surveillance under the PATRIOT Act could threaten privacy and civil liberties. Including that concern shows that the response involved questions about rights as well as security.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

What Happened, What Followed
On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda hijackers flew two planes into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. A fourth crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers and crew resisted the hijackers. At the towers, rescuers entered dangerous buildings to help people escape. Their courage was one response to a day of terrible loss. The PATRIOT Act gave investigators broader powers to seek information about terrorism. The Department of Homeland Security brought agencies together to improve security and emergency planning. These efforts raised a difficult question about protecting the public without weakening privacy rights.

Accept summaries that accurately distinguish the three crash locations and the two federal responses. For the museum label, accept any passage-based example of heroism and a clearly identified concern about privacy or civil liberties.