

## Reading *September 12th*

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#### SUMMARY

During this activity, you and your child will actively read *September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right*, using the suggested reading strategies.

#### WHY

Children's picture books can be great for introducing kids to difficult topics. While reading together, you can decide how much you want to discuss the details of September 11, 2001.

#### TIME

- 10 minutes or more, depending on your child's interest and which reading strategies you choose

#### RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

This activity will work best for children in kindergarten to 1st grade.

#### YOU NEED

- *September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right* book
- *Step Back in Time* sheets (*attached*)

#### PARENT PREPARATION

- *September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right* describes the events of September 11, 2001 as "bad things." If you would like to provide your child with more historic information in an age-appropriate format, consider reading the featured book for this theme, *The Little Chapel That Stood* by A. B. Curtiss, with a reading guide at [http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/sept11/sept11\\_reading.pdf](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/sept11/sept11_reading.pdf).
- Consider reading the notes on the attached *Step Back in Time* sheets.
- If you have time, preview some of the reading suggestions below. Pick just a few suggestions that look interesting and appropriate for you and your child.

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/sept11/>

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### BEFORE YOU READ

- What are some of the things that you do everyday? Name six things that you do during the day, from waking up to going to bed.

### DURING READING

- Listen for the different things that are described in the book. Which of these things do you do or see everyday? Which of these things were special about September 12, 2001?
- As you read, notice the order of each thing that is described. They are in order of a day, from waking up to going to bed. As you read, decide what time of day it is: morning, time for school, or night time.

### AFTER READING

- Share your memories of September 11 and 12, 2001, with your child. How did you feel? Use the pictures or words from the book to talk together. Talk about ways the story in the book and your memory are the same or different.

**Tip** Many young children think that all of the “important” events in American history happened in the distant past and to other people. If you are able to share your memory of September 11, 2001, you can show your child that historical events touch the lives of everyday people and that history doesn’t always mean “a long time ago.”

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For more information, visit the National Museum of American History website <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/sept11/>.

September 11, 2001, will be remembered as one of the most shocking days in American history. *Terrorists hijacked* four airplanes and used them as weapons against the United States. The attacks destroyed the World Trade Center, harmed the Pentagon, and killed more than 3,000 people.

- The World Trade Center was a group of office buildings in New York City, famous for its Twin Towers that were 110 floors tall. The World Trade Center was hit by two planes.
- The Pentagon is a huge office building near Washington, D.C. where workers and members of the armed forces plan and support the American military. The Pentagon was hit by one plane.
- A fourth plane, Flight 93, was also *hijacked*. Some passengers heard by phone that other *hijacked* planes were being used as weapons, so they organized and stormed the cockpit of the airplane. Ultimately Flight 93 crashed in an open field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing everyone on board. Officials believe the *hijackers* had been planning to crash into a building in Washington, D.C.

Immediately after the attacks, first responders, including police officers, firefighters, members of the military, and emergency medical workers, raced to the attack sites to rescue survivors and offer help to people at the sites. Many first responders were hurt or killed as a result of the attacks on September 11, 2001.



This photograph, taken by firefighter Jon Culberson, is one of the first images of the Pentagon shortly after the terrorist attack.

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Following the *terrorist* attacks of September 11, children and adults from across the country felt a strong need to aid and show support for the first responders and rescue workers at the three crash sites. Warm notes from supporters were comforting to the workers who had very hard jobs to do. In addition, many individuals across the country responded by making art and jewelry that was specifically related to the sites of the attacks or generally *patriotic*.

In response to the attacks by al Qaeda, an international *terrorist* group, America began to lead a war against *terrorism* that has included fighting in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

- *terrorism*: the use of violent actions to frighten people as a way of trying to achieve a political goal (Terrorists are people who use terrorism.)
- *hijack*: to take control of (an aircraft) by force
- *patriotic*: having or showing great love and support for your country



With over 16,000 military employees, the corridors and offices of the Pentagon are filled with uniformed soldiers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. Baseball-style caps like these are authorized for wear on board ship, and are traditional souvenirs of vessels visited or served on. These two hats were recovered from the Pentagon after the attacks on September 11, 2001.