
Objects from September 11, 2001

Presenter: James Gardner, former Senior Historian, National Museum of American History

Web Site: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/911.mp3>

Teacher Guide

Listen to *Objects from September 11, 2001*

Podcast (18:17)

- Download the podcast as an MP3 (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/911.mp3>)

Pre-Listening Questions

- What do you think is the difference between history and memory?
- Think about something that you've saved in order to remember an event in the past? Why did you save it? What does it mean to you? Did your family or school save anything to remember September 11?

Discussion Questions

- What stories are important to preserve about September 11? Can you think of an object that might one of these stories?
- Name one or two of the artifacts described by James Gardner that caught your attention. What interested you about these objects?
- James Gardner talks about objects that may seem insignificant but have a powerful story behind them. Can you think of an object you own that has significant meaning that may not be obvious on the surface?
- How do you think people will react to the artifacts collected by the National Museum of American History in 20 years? As more time goes by, how do you think these events will stay real? What role can museums, and other memorials play?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- September 11: Teaching Contemporary History online conference: <http://smithsonianconference.org/september11/program/>
- The Curator's Challenge: Life in a Post-September 11 World: http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/resources/Curators_Challenge.pdf
- Iron Worker's Hard Hat: <http://www.historyexplorer.si.edu/artifacts/resource.asp?id=3501>
- OurStory: September 11, 2001: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/sept11/>
- Students' Response to 9/11-A Documentary Report: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/resources/Lesson15.pdf>

Thinkfinity Features:

- <http://thinkfinity.org/september11-10th-anniversary>
- <http://thinkfinity.org/9-11-never-forgotten>
- <http://thinkfinity.org/pentagon-memorial>
- <http://community.thinkfinity.org/groups/september11>

Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

Name:

Date:

Period:

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Student Worksheet

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

1. What stories are important to preserve about September 11? Can you think of an object that might one of these stories?

2. Name one or two of the artifacts described by James Gardner that caught your attention. What interested you about these objects?

3. James Gardner talks about objects that may seem insignificant but have a powerful story behind them. Can you think of an object you own that has significant meaning that may not be obvious on the surface?

4. How do you think people will react to the artifacts collected by the National Museum of American History in 20 years? As more time goes by, how do you think these events will stay real? What role can museums, and other memorials play?