

Name _____

Date _____

9/11 - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The **Twin Towers** were a New York City landmark at 110 stories each. They were completed in 1973. The towers were the centerpieces of the World Trade Center Complex. They were the tallest buildings in New York City and, for a brief time, the tallest buildings in the world. Every day, around 50,000 people went to work at companies with offices inside the towers. The seven underground levels included stores and a subway station. The South Tower had an observation deck on the 107th floor, while the North Tower's top floors were home to Windows on the World, a world-famous restaurant with views extending into New Jersey.

Which sentence best states the main idea of this passage?

**A.**

“The Twin Towers were a New York City landmark at 110 stories each.”

This passage is mostly about the Twin Towers, which were a New York City landmark. The details in this passage support this main idea.

B. “The seven underground levels included stores and a subway station.”

C. “They were completed in 1973.”

D. “Every day, around 50,000 people went to work at companies with offices inside the towers.”

2. Seconds after the first plane hit the North Tower, New York City firefighters and police officers were sent to the scene. By 9:10 AM, 2,000 police officers and 235 firefighters had been dispatched. Off-duty personnel responded to the attacks, as well. Hundreds of these first responders were killed when the South Tower collapsed just before 10 AM.

Many civilians (non-emergency personnel) also risked their lives to lead others to safety that day. Welles Crowther worked on the 104th floor of the South Tower. After the plane hit his building, he ran up and down flights of stairs, guiding strangers to safety. Welles Crowther died when the South Tower collapsed. Afterwards, many survivors said that a “man in a red bandana” saved their lives. Through this description, his mother recognized her son; he always carried a red bandana in his pocket.

Which detail from the passage best explains how Welles Crowther’s mother realized that the survivors were describing her son?

A. “Welles Crowther worked on the 104th floor of the South Tower.”

B.

“...he always carried a red bandana in his pocket.”

According to the passage, many survivors described a “man in a red bandana” who had saved their lives. The detail that Crowther “always carried a red bandana” therefore explains how his mother realized that they were describing her son.

C. “...he ran up and down flights of stairs, guiding strangers to safety.”

D. “Welles Crowther died when the South Tower collapsed.”

3. At first, it was unclear how or why a plane had crashed into the North Tower. Live news footage was broadcast across the country as people waited for answers. Eighteen minutes after the hijacked plane hit, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. It hit at about the 77th-85th floors. Millions watching on TV saw this second crash as it happened. The media began reporting that it seemed the events were terrorist attacks.

After burning for almost an hour, the South Tower completely collapsed at 9:59 AM. At 10:30, the North Tower also collapsed. Both collapses were broadcast live to viewers around the world. Nearly 3,000 people died in the World Trade Center. The victims included 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers.

Based on the passage, when did the public first find out that the plane crashes were acts of terrorists?



A.

after a second plane crashed into the South Tower

According to the passage, "At first, it was unclear how or why a plane had crashed into the North Tower," but after "a second plane crashed into the South Tower...The media began reporting that it seemed the events were terrorist attacks."

B. right after the first plane crashed into the North Tower

C. as soon as live news footage began to be broadcast from the World Trade Center

D. an hour after the South Tower collapsed

4. At 9:37 AM, a third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon. The 59 passengers aboard the plane and 125 people inside the building were killed. Before 10 AM that morning, the Federal Aviation Administration issued a nationwide ground stop, forbidding any planes from leaving the ground. This order had never been issued since flying was invented in 1903. The FAA also ordered all planes in the air to land as soon as possible.

In the passage above, what is the purpose of the underlined sentence?

- A. to show how long ago flying was invented B. to explain why the Federal Aviation Administration did not respond quickly to the events of 9/11
- C. to show that the US had never before dealt with an attack like 9/11 D. to explain that the Federal Aviation Administration is made up of former pilots



C.

to show that the US had never before dealt with an attack like 9/11

This sentence states that the FAA gave an order that had never before been given. In the passage, the sentence serves to show that the US had never dealt with an attack like 9/11 before.

5. When the FAA gave their order, a fourth hijacked plane was already in the air. United 93 left Newark, New Jersey, for San Francisco, California, at 8:42 AM. The flight had been delayed. As a result many passengers had learned of the attacks in New York and DC through cell phone calls from family members. When their own plane was hijacked, passengers realized it was part of a larger terrorist plot. They decided to fight back.

The hijackers' intended target was unknown. Many suspect they were headed for another US landmark, such as the Capitol or the White House. Several passengers aboard United 93 managed to take control of the plane. Knowing their flight was doomed, they crashed the plane into a field in western Pennsylvania to avoid further civilian deaths on the ground. All 45 people aboard the plane were killed.

What is the meaning of the word “plot” in the first paragraph of the passage above?



A.

a secret plan to do something evil

According to the passage, “When their own plane was hijacked, passengers realized it was part of a larger terrorist plot.” Details in this sentence, like “hijacked” and “terrorist,” show that the word “plot” means “a secret plan to do something evil.”

B. an area of land

C. the main story in a movie or book

D. to mark on a map or graph

6. The 19 **hijackers** were members of **Al Qaeda**, a terrorist network founded in the late 1980s by **Osama bin Laden** and others. Al Qaeda aimed to instill fear in the American people and reduce the influence of the US abroad. The Twin Towers at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were chosen as targets because they symbolized the United States and its influence and power. The World Trade Center symbolized America's wealth. The Pentagon was a symbol of its military power. 15 of the 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, two were from the United Arab Emirates, one was from Lebanon and one was from Egypt.

According to this passage, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were chosen as targets because they

A. were two centers of the American government.



B.

were symbols of American power.

The sentences "The Twin Towers at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were chosen as targets because they symbolized the United States and its influence and power. The World Trade Center symbolized America's wealth. The Pentagon was a symbol of its military power" support this answer.

C. held the most people.

D. were closest to the hijackers.

7. **Osama bin Laden** was a religious extremist. That means that he interpreted the teachings of his religion, Islam, in a way that was far more strict than the vast majority of Muslims. Most people understand that everyone lives their life in their own way. But bin Laden used extreme violence to try to force people to live their lives the way he believed they should.

Based on this passage, the phrase "religious extremist" most likely refers to

A. a person who is eager to start a battle or war.



B.

a person who holds the strictest religious views.

According to the passage, "Osama bin Laden was a religious extremist. That means that he interpreted the teachings of his religion, Islam, in a way that was far more strict than the vast majority of Muslims." Details in these sentences, like "his religion" and "far more strict," give clues that the meaning of "religious extremist" is a "person who holds the strictest religious views."

C. a person who does not practice any religion.

D. a person who is angered by religion.

8. In 1988, Osama bin Laden created **Al Qaeda**, a terrorist network based in Afghanistan. Bin Laden organized terrorists to embrace violent jihad, or holy war. Their aim was to create a single Islamic state. Al Qaeda claimed to be righting wrongs committed against Muslims for generations. US military policies were seen as one such "wrong." In particular, Al Qaeda saw the United States' support of Israel as a war against Islam itself. In the late 1990s, Al Qaeda took credit for a series of attacks. These attacks included an earlier bombings at the World Trade Center, the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and a US navy destroyer docked off the coast of Yemen. In 1998, bin Laden declared that every Muslim should "kill Americans wherever they are found."

Which detail from the passage best explains Osama bin Laden's goal in creating Al Qaeda?

A. "These attacks included an earlier bombings at the World Trade Center, the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and a US navy destroyer docked off the coast of Yemen."



B.

"Bin Laden organized terrorists to embrace violent jihad, or holy war. Their aim was to create a single Islamic state."

This detail explains that the goal, or aim, of the organized network of terrorists was "to create a single Islamic state."

C. "In particular, Al Qaeda saw the United States' support of Israel as a war against Islam itself."

D. "In particular, Al Qaeda saw the United States' support of Israel as a war against Islam itself."

9. On September 20th, President Bush delivered a speech to a joint session of Congress in which he outlined his plans for a **War on Terror**. By then, the world knew that Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden were behind the 9/11 attacks.

The Taliban was the ruling group of Afghanistan at the time. President Bush called on them to hand over bin Laden and other members of Al Qaeda. President Bush stated that any country that continued to harbor or support terrorists would be regarded as an enemy.

The Taliban refused to cooperate with the US's demand. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia severed their ties to the Taliban. Airstrikes against the Taliban government and Al Qaeda began on October 7, 2001, and ground troops arrived later that month.

In the second paragraph of the passage above, what is the meaning of the word “harbor”?

- A. a place that is safe and comfortable
- B. a part of the ocean next to land that is deep enough for ships
- C. to have in your mind for a long time
- ☒ D. to hide or give shelter to

According to the passage, “The Taliban was the ruling group of Afghanistan...President Bush called on them to hand over bin Laden and other members of Al Qaeda. President Bush stated that any country that continued to harbor or support terrorists would be regarded as an enemy.” Details in these sentences, like Bush calling on the ruling group of Afghanistan to “hand over bin Laden,” show that “harbor” is a verb meaning “to hide or give shelter to” in this passage.

10. The American military and CIA found and killed bin Laden in a compound in Pakistan on May 2, 2011. This was nearly 10 years after the 9/11 attacks. Bin Laden’s body was buried at sea.

President Obama called the death the “most significant achievement to date in our nation’s effort to defeat Al Qaeda.” However, he stressed that the effort against Al Qaeda was not over. Upon hearing the news of bin Laden’s death, crowds gathered at the White House, Times Square and Ground Zero, the former site of the Twin Towers. They waved American flags, chanted and sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

In the passage above, what is the purpose of the underlined sentence?

A. to explain how bin Laden was found



B.

to show that some people in the US
celebrated the death of Osama bin Laden

Details from this sentence, like the description of how crowds “waved American flags, chanted and sang,” show that some people in the US celebrated bin Laden’s death.

C. to describe President Obama’s address to
the nation after bin Laden was killed

D. to show that many events have been
celebrated on the White House lawn

11. In New York City, the 9/11 Memorial is located at the site of the former World Trade Center Complex. It was dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the attacks. A waterfall and reflecting pool were built in the footprints of each original tower. The panels surrounding the pools are inscribed with the names of every person who died in the attacks. The new World Trade Center complex, which includes the memorial and a museum, also contains One World Trade Center. The tower, which opened in October 2014, is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. It is 1,776 feet tall, a number chosen to recall the founding of the United States.

What is the main idea of this passage?



A.

The 9/11 Memorial is located at the site of
the former World Trade Center and
commemorates the victims.

This passage is mostly about the 9/11 Memorial, which is located at the site of the former World Trade Center and commemorates the victims. The details in the passage support this main idea.

B. People found different ways to memorialize
those lost on 9/11.

C. The new World Trade Center tower is the
tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

D. One World Trade Center is 1,776 feet tall.