

Today Is September 11th | Lesson Plan

What can we learn from the bravery and unity shown by individuals on September 11, 2001?

Students will be introduced to the significance of Patriot Day and provide age-appropriate information about the events of September 11, 2001, focusing on themes of courage, resilience, and unity.

Learning Objectives:

- Engage in activities to honor and remember the heroes and victims of 9/11.
- Recognize the importance of unity and community support during challenging times.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Patriot Day:** The name of the national holiday that takes place every year on September 11 in memory of the victims of the September 11 attack and the first responders who saved so many lives that day.
- **Twin Towers:** The two tallest and most famous almost identical buildings of the World Trade Center before they were struck by hijacked planes and collapsed on September 11.
- **Terrorists:** People who use the fear and intimidation of violence to get their way.
- **Unity:** Coming together as one, supporting and helping each other.
- **Memorial:** Something, such as a monument or ceremony, that honors and remembers a person or event.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.R.9, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.R2, CCRA.SL.3, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.L.6

Academic Subject Areas: America, History, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Today Is September 11th* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Today Is September 11th* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Today Is September 11th* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin the lesson by showing students a series of age-appropriate scenes that focus on themes of help and patriotic unity, such as firefighters assisting others or people supporting one another. Avoid images that could be too intense or graphic for young students.



2. Use their responses to segue into a discussion about the events of September 11 and the bravery and courage shown by people on that day and the days that followed. Let students know that they will be listening to a story that depicts the tragedy but also the resilience our country showcased on that fateful day.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Play the video *Otto's Tales: Today Is September 11th* for the students.
2. Pause briefly throughout the video to ask students questions to assess their comprehension of the story:
 - How did the first responders show bravery and courage?
 - How did Americans show their patriotic unity during such a difficult moment?
3. After listening to the story, ask students guiding questions to make connections:
 - Why is it important to remember September 11?
 - What are some other ways people can come together during difficult times?
4. Connect the lesson to the students' lives by emphasizing the importance of kindness, bravery, and helping others. Encourage students to be "everyday heroes" by showing compassion and standing up for what is right. Remind them that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the world, just like the heroes of 9/11.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Distribute individual copies of the "Today Is September 11th Worksheet" and guide students through the following instructions:
 - In the **Calendar Area**, ask students to draw a picture of a fireman, police officer, or another example of the helpers who risked their lives on this day.
 - Have students write the name of the month and fill in the calendar by writing the numbers, starting from the correct day of the week. Remind them that September has 30 days.
 - In the **Month Section**, direct students to read aloud or sing the months of the year song. Then, have them color in the correct month.
 - In the **Seasons Section**, ask students to read aloud the four seasons, then color the appropriate season.
 - In the **Weather Section**, instruct students to circle or color the character that correctly displays today's weather.
 - In the **Telling Time Section**, guide students to write the current time in both analog and digital formats.
 - In the **Temperature Section**, have students color today's temperature.
2. After students have completed the calendar worksheet, sing a simple patriotic song together, such as "America the Beautiful" or "This Land is Your Land." Encourage students to sing along and reflect on the meaning of the lyrics.
3. To conclude the lesson, hold a brief moment of silence to honor the heroes and victims of September 11. Encourage students to think quietly about what they can do to promote peace and kindness.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and discuss why it is important to remember an event like September 11.