

# Flight 93 National Memorial Parks as Classrooms

**Lesson Plan: America under Attack**

**Grade Level:** 9-12 grades

**Time Requirement:** 2 hours

**Settings:** Learning Center, Flight Path/Overlook, Visitor Center

*Our educational programs are aligned to Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.*

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12**

*Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.*

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.1.A**

*Come to discussions prepared having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.*

**CC.8.5.9-10.C**

*Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text, determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.*

**CC.8.5.11-12.C**

*Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanations best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.*

---

This program utilizes multimedia, exhibits, oral presentations, seating charts, phone calls, and a transcript of the cockpit voice recorder to deliver a unique learning opportunity. The overall objective of this program is to expose students to the role of the FBI in the investigation as to what really happened aboard Flight 93.

Flight 93 National Memorial Learning Center is a classroom where teachers, students, park rangers and volunteers identify and explore the story of Flight 93 and September 11. Upon arrival to the park the teachers will bring their students to this center. The students will be put in groups of 4-10 to form up teams of investigators to uncover the true story of Flight 93. The students will investigate the story through both primary and secondary source materials as well as exhibits within the park's visitor center.

**Program Objectives:** Students will be able to:

1. Name three terrorist and their role in the September 11, 2001, attack
2. List two events leading up to the attacks on September 11 that had an impact on national security

3. Name the four targets and potential targets selected by the terrorist on September 11
4. List and describe two key pieces of evidence gathered from the investigation
5. Discuss how other information gathered by the FBI and CIA led to al-Qaeda involvement

**Materials Needed (National Park Service Provides On-Site):**

1. Flip chart, easel, whiteboard or open wall space
2. Student/Teacher workbook/worksheet
3. *Dial and Discover from Anywhere* handout
4. *Masterminds of Terror* by Yosri Fouda and Nick Fielding
5. *The Cell* by John Miller

**Pre-Visit: Reflections of September 11:** This lesson gives context about the September 11, 2001, attacks and that day's timeline of events, including all three sites of the attacks. Images of September 11, tributes and eyewitness accounts are used to capture the essence of that day. Images of actual comment cards, artwork and poetry created by children and left at the memorial as tributes to honor the heroes will be used in group discussion.

**On-Site Visit Overview:** This portion of the field trip is divided into three parts "*Masterminds of Terror*," "*America Attacked*" and "*It Was A Massive Investigation*". The field trip experience will start in the Learning Center. There the students will be oriented to the site, logistics of the day explained, and they will receive a workbook/factsheet to record information. They will also receive the *Dial and Discover from Anywhere* handout. After a short movie the students will walk along the flight path to the overlook. Once there a ranger will give an oral presentation followed by a trip to the park visitor center. The students will have time to explore the exhibits to learn the story of September 11. The group will then return to the Learning Center for conclusions and wrap up.

**Masterminds of Terror:** This portion of the field trip will take place in the Learning Center after the orientation. The students will be divided into groups and will be presented information leading up to the attack on America by al-Qaeda. This information will be presented using charts, graphs, video, Power Point, and lectures. Students will be required to take notes and gather information in their workbooks to be used later for group discussion and presentations.

**America Attacked:** The students are to explore the exhibits in the visitor center. They will search for words and evidence of actions taken by the terrorist, military and passengers and crew. Students will also use cellphone tour to investigate and gather information. This evidence will be documented in the workbook/factsheet provided.

**It Was A Massive Investigation:** The students will return to the Learning Center. There they will get back into their groups and share information gathered. This information will then be discussed and presented and shared by the group.

**Post Visit: Never Forget:** This lesson will give the students a chance to be creative by writing a poem, song, story or drawing or painting a picture as a tribute and remembrance. These can be shared on the park's social media sites and website as a collage image or post. Images can be emailed to the Education Program Specialist.