

Lesson 8: The War on Terror: Part A

A Social Studies Lesson Plan Developed for Upper Elementary (4-6) and Middle School (7-8)

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Lesson Title: Part A: What is Terrorism?

Curriculum Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: 4-8

Estimated Time:

One class period

Alabama Courses of Study Social Studies Standards:

Grade 4:

15. Identify major world events that influenced Alabama since 1950, including the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism.

Grade 6:

12. Explaining how conflict in the Middle East impacted life in the United States since World War II
Examples: oil embargoes; Iranian hostage situation; Camp David Accords; Persian Gulf Wars; 1993 World Trade Center bombing; terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; War on Terrorism; homeland security

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to use key terms found in readings to define terrorism
2. Students will be able to use the definition of terrorism to evaluate the rationale for 9/11 targets

Evaluation of Student Learning:

Students will list each of the sites targeted on 9/11 and will use an established definition of terrorism to discuss why a terrorist would choose each of the sites.

Learning Design/Activity Plans:

Materials:

Highlighters

Chromebooks or other computers

To be Printed for each student

Lesson A: [Definitions of Terrorism Handout](#)

Links to be used in presentation:

Timeline of Events and Targets: <https://timeline.911memorial.org/#Timeline/2>

Procedure:

1. Place students in pairs or small groups.
2. Distribute the [Definitions of Terrorism Handout](#) and highlighters
3. Ask students to read each of the three definitions of terrorism on the handout.
4. Ask students to highlight key words in each of the definitions and be ready to discuss why they chose those key words.
5. Distribute Chromebooks or other computers
6. Direct students to the **Timeline of Events and Targets** on the 9/11 Memorial's website <https://timeline.911memorial.org/#Timeline/2>
7. Tell students that they will be reading and viewing an interactive timeline of the events of September 11, 2001. Tell them that the terrorists' targets that day were not randomly chosen.
8. Tell them that they will be reading and viewing to identify 3 targets which meet the criteria found in the definitions of terrorism.
9. Ask students to share their findings. Ask that they use highlighted vocabulary from the [Definitions of Terrorism Handout](#) to support their responses.

Additional Teacher Resources:

Targeting American Symbols New Yorker Magazine Cover Lesson Plan

<https://www.911memorial.org/learn/students-and-teachers/lesson-plans/targeting-american-symbols>