



# 9/11

## The Day That Changed America

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### Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

# Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security has many individuals working around the clock to ensure the safety and well-being of the American people. One of the primary goals is to protect Americans from terrorism like the attack that occurred on September 11, 2001. The core values of the department are integrity, vigilance, and respect. However, many Americans feel that their work violates the privacy rights of American citizens.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1). Which of the department's core values (integrity, vigilance, respect) do you most identify with?**

Student answers will vary. You may want to split students up into groups to allow students to collaborate within their chosen core value. Together all three values can be of value to any department or organization, including the Department of Homeland Security.

**2). The Department of Homeland Security has six main goals for protecting citizens. Go to the [DHS Strategic Planning website](#) and view the six goals. Which do you think are the most important? Are you surprised by the details within each goal?**

Student answers will vary depending on the goal they choose but you may also want to print the goals out and annotate them. This is a beneficial way to allow students to dive deeper into the strategies and goals.

**3). The Department of Homeland Security prides themselves on following a budget and using taxpayer money effectively. Look at [their budget](#), what grade would you give them? What would you do differently?**

Student answers will vary depending on the grade they choose to give the DHS. It is important to discuss various sections of the performance plan and review any terms that students might not recognize.

**4). The Department of Homeland Security is hiring! Take a look at the job opportunities, do you see any of interest? Which seems the most exciting? Any that seem boring?**

Student answers may vary depending on the career choice. It would be interesting to see what students choose and the reasoning behind their choice.

**5). There is a lot of debate concerning the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security. Many individuals feel that they are doing more harm than good. Others feel that they are not focusing on terrorism like they should and are focusing more on cybersecurity or immigration. What areas do you feel the DHS should focus on?**

Students may state terrorism or criminal activity. Many students will have opinions based on experiences as well. It is important to keep students focused during this discussion. Note that discussions about immigration may be sensitive for students in your classroom.

**Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.**

## **LINKS TO RESOURCES**

### **Videos**

- 1). [We Are DHS](#) (video); This video reviews all of the departments under the Department of Homeland Security.
- 2). [Homeland Security Investigations \(HSI\) - An Introduction](#) (video); This video covers the investigative section of the Department of Homeland Security.
- 3). [Day in the Life: HSI Special Agent Aegeda Fountaine](#) (video); This video reviews a day in the life of a special agent within the Department of Homeland Security.
- 4). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qv86vFyKR1E>; This video discusses why we need the Department of Homeland Security.
- 5). [Department of Homeland Security should be dismantled, former national security official says](#) (video); This video discusses reasons for dismantling the Department of Homeland Security.

### **Media**

- 1). [Strengthening Department of Homeland Security Management Functions](#); This site reviews various management areas within the DHS and how to strengthen those areas.
- 2). [The Department Of Homeland Security Comics And Cartoons](#); This website includes various cartoons concerning the DHS.
- 3). [Homeland Security Shuts Down 'Intelligence' Reports on Journalists \(Published 2020\)](#); This news article reviews some DHS shutdowns due to breach of privacy on individuals.
- 4). [DHS cybersecurity head Christopher Krebs fired by President Trump after he disputes fraud claims](#); This news article reviews issues with security during Trump's presidency.
- 5). [Reforming the Department of Homeland Security Through Enhanced Oversight & Accountability](#); This article presents additional information concerning reformation of the DHS.

### **Websites**

- 1). [Homeland Security | Home](#); This is the homepage for the DHS.
- 2). [Department Of Homeland Security: Latest News, Top Stories & Analysis - POLITICO](#); This website contains news concerning the DHS.
- 3). [Redefining Homeland Security: A New Framework for DHS To Meet Today's Challenges](#); This website contains information concerning new frameworks for the DHS.
- 4). [Time to break up Department of Homeland Security once and for all](#); This website reviews the need to dismantle the DHS.
- 5). [Department of Homeland Security: List of Essential Industries](#); This website identifies essential industries as identified by the DHS.

# Increased Airport Security

It is hard to believe that 20 years ago life was dramatically different, especially in terms of our trips through airport security. Many films prior to 9/11 show families waving goodbye or greeting one another at the airport terminal gate right where you board or deboard the airplane. After 9/11 no one without a passenger ticket was allowed beyond the security checkpoint in the main area of the airport. Before 9/11 passengers were checked at security, but were allowed to keep their shoes on and were allowed to bring liquids, small knives, and cigarette lighters onto the airplane. After 9/11 security at airports was dramatically increased and all this changed. Travel through America's airports and airports around the world would likely never be the same.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1). Have you or someone you know ever gone through airport security and had to give up a personal item? What was it? Did you expect this to happen?**

Possible Answers: Students may know someone who had some sort of food item or beverage taken at the security checkpoint in an airport. Other answers may include toiletry items such as shampoo that was above the liquid limit. If they haven't flown before you might review items that are restricted for carry-on luggage.

- 2). Should airports force individuals to take off their shoes? Why is this necessary or is it something that should not occur at this point in time?**

Possible Answers: Students may not realize that when you go through airport security, they require that you take off your shoes and run them through the x-ray machine. They may say yes because they are willing to do it in order to feel more secure. Others may have reasons against it. For instance, senior citizens may have a harder time taking their shoes off. If students have experienced that, then they may have various answers.

- 3). Some individuals have complained that body scanning devices are a breach of privacy. They feel individuals should not be required to use them. Some individuals have even resorted to a pat down instead of using the scanners. Do you feel that full body scanners are a breach of privacy?**

Possible Answers: Students may be in favor of full body scanners because they are willing to give up privacy in exchange for security. Others may feel that it is too invasive. The website below includes information about what is shown during a full body scan.

- 4). Have you noticed any police officers or additional security personnel monitoring local airports? Have you noticed any security measures being taken as you were leaving the airport or terminal area?**

Possible Answers: Students may have noticed additional security at certain airports. Students may have also noticed a time limit for certain parking areas at the drop-off or pick-up locations at the airport. Others may have heard the announcements concerning individuals not leaving luggage unattended or if you see unattended luggage to say something to a security agent ("See something, Say something").

**5). Have you ever traveled to other countries? Did you experience the same security protocol at those airports?**

Possible Answers: Students may have noticed more military at other airports, especially those in either communist or highly volatile areas. Students may also have obtained a passport which would be a great discussion topic for leading into where students traveled and if they enjoyed traveling outside the United States versus inside the United States.

**Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.**

## **LINKS TO RESOURCES**

### **Videos**

- 1). [How has airport security changed since 9/11?](#); This video provides a brief overview of security measures put into place at airports after 9/11.
- 2). [9/11 Airspace Shutdown • With Timeline](#); This video shows a time lapse of all existing air travel as the 9/11 terrorist attack was occurring.
- 3). [BOATLIFT - An Untold Tale of 9/11 Resilience](#); This video would be a great way to show students other modes of transportation that were used when air travel stopped on 9/11.
- 4). [A Short History of Airline Security](#); This video provides a timeline of airline security from past to present.
- 5). [How 9/11 changed America and the world](#); This video gives evidence of how 9/11 changed America and the world.

### **Media**

- 1). [Airport Security Checkpoint](#); This picture shows the check point for security and all the technology.
- 2). [Airport Metal Detector](#); This picture shows what a metal detector wand looks like and how it's used.
- 3). [Air Marshal Infographic](#); This picture shows the difference in the number of airport marshals from 2001 to today.
- 4). [Suitcase Scan](#); This picture shows an example of what a scanner machine looks like to security personnel at the airport.
- 5). [Fatality Graph](#); This is a graph of fatalities resulting from violence on commercial aircraft.

### **Websites**

- 1). [Airport Full-Body Scanners and Pacemakers](#)
- 2). [Travel | Transportation Security Administration](#)
- 3). [How 9/11 Changed America: Four Major Lasting Impacts \(with Lesson Plan\) - The Lowdown](#)
- 4). [United States – Basic Flight Information and Air Traffic Control Procedures](#)
- 5). [Map of Airports in United States](#)

# Patriot Act

Who doesn't love a good spy movie? Especially ones that involve agents going undercover to solve a mystery or rescue someone from tyranny? After September 11th the United States government worked quickly to come up with new strategies and legislation to help combat the war on terrorism. This legislation became known as the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act gives the United States government more authority to investigate American citizens or even individuals visiting the United States. New technologies over the past 20 years have also made surveillance easier and more invasive throughout the country.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1). The Patriot Act allows for surveillance in many ways. Government officials can get court permission to use surveillance methods for a variety of terrorist-related incidents. Is this surprising? What aspect of being watched makes you nervous? Do you feel more confident in our government for stepping up surveillance methods?**

Students may respond that they had no idea that you could be under surveillance for everyday occurrences like stopping at a stoplight. Previous knowledge or even conversations at home may contribute to them being more nervous or confident overall concerning higher levels of surveillance.

- 2). What is a roving wiretap? How does law enforcement use it differently in comparison to earlier years before the September 11 attacks?**

Students may need to do a little research on this question prior to discussions. Federal and state law enforcement use the roving wiretap in a similar way. Before 9/11 they often needed more permissions and couldn't move as quickly as needed in dealing with possible terrorists. Today they need less permission to change methods to be able to move quickly to catch terrorists.

- 3). How did communication of suspected terrorists and other criminals change between state and government entities?**

The Patriot Act did away with many of the barriers that had once prevented the different levels of government from communicating information. Now information is available to agencies regardless of the level of the crime. It's much easier to compare notes and information.

- 4). Prior to 9/11 if a law enforcement official had evidence or suspected terrorists in an area, they had to get a warrant for each location in suspicion. Today law enforcement officials can obtain district warrants. The district warrants cover a broader area which allows the officials to search multiple locations at once. Why would this be important?**

Students may respond that this allows them to quickly catch terrorists as they move from one location to another. Many times suspected locations may turn up empty of terrorists but may provide proof of terrorists in a close area. Now law enforcement doesn't have to obtain a search warrant for each location, making capture more efficient.

**5). The Patriot Act increased consequences for individuals involved in various forms of terrorism. This includes bioterrorism. What areas would the public find this additional government legislation to be most effective?**

Students may say a variety of things like keeping terrorists off the street longer. Deportation to other facilities around the world or even to their home country. Some may know more than others due to parent conversations in the home.

**Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.**

## **LINKS TO RESOURCES**

### **Videos**

- 1). [Here's Why the Patriot Act Is So Controversial | History](#); This video gives an overview of the pros and cons of the Patriot Act.
- 2). [What Is The Patriot Act?](#); This video gives additional information concerning latest amendments or rulings concerning the Patriot Act.
- 3). [Everything you need to know about the Patriot Act](#); This video gives another overview of the information concerning the Patriot Act.
- 4). [Everything You Need To Know About The Patriot Act | 101 | NBC News](#); This video gives information concerning the Patriot Act but in easy-to-follow quick terms.
- 5). [Are Patriot Act provisions essential for fighting terrorism?](#); This video gives information concerning pros and cons of the Patriot Act from different perspectives.

### **Media**

*All of these below are pictures with propaganda either for or against the Patriot Act.*

- 1). [ACLU Patriot Act Flyer](#)
- 2). [Patriot Act Cartoon](#)
- 3). [Patriot Act Infographic](#)
- 4). [Signing the Patriot Act Image](#)
- 5). [Patriot Act Cartoon 2](#)

### **Websites**

- 1). [What is the USA Patriot Web](#)
- 2). [Surveillance Under the USA/PATRIOT Act](#)
- 3). [USA PATRIOT Act | Facts, History, Acronym, & Controversy](#)
- 4). [What is the Patriot Act? | The impact it has on your privacy](#)
- 5). [United and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism \(USA Patriot Act\)](#)

# The War in Afghanistan

September 11, 2001 brought many new threats to our nation's security. This horrific event also brought the United States into a war on terror. This war has continued for twenty years. Many countries have worked to intervene and have tried to establish a better way of life for individuals living in Afghanistan. However, recently the Taliban have retaken control of most of Afghanistan and the United States is withdrawing its forces from the country.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1). Afghanistan's history has included many years of war. What is one issue facing the country of Afghanistan today?**

Students may answer that the Taliban has recently retaken control of most of the country. Many may know individuals who have served in the U.S. armed forces and have fought or worked within the country. This can be a sensitive topic. It is important to remind students that there will be many reasons why a country might struggle to develop.

**2). The United States has been fighting in Afghanistan for 20 years. Why do you feel the United States government and much of the American population is ready to leave Afghanistan?**

Students would benefit from watching some of the videos prior to answering this question. The videos would help students understand the history and issues better.

**3). How does the geography of Afghanistan affect the way an area is governed or controlled?**

Students will benefit from watching the video on the history of Afghanistan. This video gives detailed characteristics of the terrain of Afghanistan and the level of difficulty in keeping control of an area. It also discusses the issues with bordering countries.

**4). Why do you feel that the United States has struggled so much with helping the people of Afghanistan build a stable, democratic government? Why did the Afghanistan army fail to defeat the Taliban?**

Students will require substantial background information to answer these complex questions. Consider sharing some of the links below.

**5). By December 2001 most of the Taliban regime was disbanded and struggling to maintain its area within Afghanistan. Why do you think the Taliban was able to regain power in the country?**

There are many possible answers to this question. Many individuals may feel that deserters from the Afghan government and army contributed to the growing numbers within the Taliban. Others may say that the Taliban were able to buy illegal arms which helped them increase their numbers.



Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

## LINKS TO RESOURCES

### Videos

- 1). [Why Afghanistan Is Impossible to Conquer](#); This video gives a history of Afghanistan and reasons for difficulty in the progress of the country.
- 2). [Trapped in Afghanistan: One Family's Struggle to Escape the Taliban](#); This video shows one family's struggle to escape Afghanistan as the United States pulled its military out of the country.
- 3). [Frantic Exodus From Afghanistan Ties U.S. In Logistical Knot At Kabul Airport](#); This video discusses the issues in getting help to people trapped in Afghanistan.
- 4). [Afghanistan Issue Explained | US withdrawal | Taliban History | China, India, Pakistan strategy](#); This video explores reasons for the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- 5). [Video: 20 Years, 4 Presidents: The Words That Shaped the War in Afghanistan](#); Listen to the words of four presidents on the war in Afghanistan.

### Media

- 1). [How Hollywood Portrayed the War in Afghanistan](#)
- 2). [More say US has failed than succeeded in Afghanistan War](#)
- 3). [A Timeline Of Afghanistan's 4 Decades Of Instability](#)
- 4). [A Historical Timeline of Afghanistan](#)
- 5). [The War in Afghanistan: Perspectives from U.S. Veterans](#)

### Websites

- 1). [Afghanistan and Pakistan Ethnic Groups](#)
- 2). [Afghanistan War | History, Combatants, Facts, & Timeline](#)
- 3). [Human and Budgetary Costs of War](#)
- 4). [Topic: NATO and Afghanistan](#)
- 5). [Learning from the War: "Who Lost Afghanistan?" versus Learning "Why We Lost"](#)



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