



Teacher's Guide

The Day the Towers Fell **World At War**

Grade Levels:

7 - 12

Subject Areas:

World History
Social Studies

Synopsis:

Photojournalists, rescue workers, and eyewitnesses share their personal experiences of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. They recall the deep shock that everyone involved experienced and the numbing apprehension that there was much more to come. The clouds of dust and debris that made breathing difficult are described as a nuclear winter; the collapse of the towers as an out-of-body experience occurring in slow motion. In contrast, survivors also remember how firefighters, medical emergency personnel and every boat in New York Harbor came to the rescue of survivors trapped in Manhattan and how a triage center was established at Exchange Landing. In considering the meaning of 9/11, the eyewitnesses are unanimous that the greatest lesson learned was the importance of people in general and New Yorkers in particular.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Witness the shock of people who experienced the terrorist attack.
- Appreciate the bravery of first responders.
- Understand the horror of terrorist attacks.
- Appreciate the value of life.

Vocabulary:

discretion, debris, subsonic, nuclear winter, bulkheads, converged, triage

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why will 9/11 always remain embedded in our memories?

How many people died in the terrorist attack?

Can you imagine how the survivors and observers felt?

What happened to the firemen who went back into the ruined towers?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why was the reporter particularly shocked by what happened to the firefighters?

As the second tower fell, what did many people believe?

How did boats in New York Harbor come to the rescue of people stranded in Manhattan?

Where were triage centers located?

What conclusions did several onlookers make as a result of their terrifying experiences on that fateful day?

Further Activities:

Find a structural engineer's explanation for why and how the towers fell.

Read newspaper reports about 9/11 that were published in the press a day, a week, and a month after the bombing.

Find other accounts of 9/11 written or recorded by people who were there.

Investigate how New Yorkers recovered after the disaster.