

# Learning About 911 Day

## Objectives and Standards

3<sup>RD</sup> THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



**AmeriCorps**

INTERACTIVE



# Lesson 3 – 9/11 Day

## Objectives and Standards

### Teacher Goals

- Teach students how 9/11 Day became a national day of service.
- Teach students what unity means.
- Teach students what service means.

### Student Goals

- Define unity.
- Give an example of service.
- Identify similarities and differences between themselves and others.

### Social-Emotional Domains

- Relationship skills

### Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3-5.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3-5.3
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3-5.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3-5.8
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3-5.1
- CLLSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3-5.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3-5.1
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3-5.4

### C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards

- D2.His.5.3-5
- D2.His.14.3-5
- D4.6.3-5

### MATERIALS

- Computer and ability to display a slide deck presentation
- How 9/11 Became a Day of Service slide deck
- How 9/11 Became a Day of Service Comprehension Check printable
- Journal #3: Unity printable
- Family Letter #3 printable
- Pencils

### PREPARATION

- Consider how to, or whether to, address the events of September 11 with your students. This unit focuses narrowly on preparing, planning, and implementing 9/11 Day service projects. There are many organizations that already provide excellent educational materials and resources to teach students about the events of 9/11.
- Print a copy of How 9/11 Became a Day of Service Comprehension Check for each student.
- Print a copy of Journal #3: Unity for each student.
- Print a copy of Family Letter #3 for each student.



## Lesson 3 Activities

### Talk About It

- Write “9/11 Day” on the board. Tell students they are going to learn about 9/11 Day.
- Explain that 9/11 is a shorter way of saying September 11th because September is the ninth month.
- Tell students that 9/11 Day is a national day of service, which means helping or doing things for other people. It is also a day of remembrance when we honor the thousands of people who died in a series of events on September 11, 2001.
- Tell students that in the days after 9/11/2001, people around the country came together in a spirit of oneness, or togetherness. Tell students another word for that oneness is unity; write the word on the board. Underline unit and circle the -y suffix. Tell students the suffix means “the quality of”, so unity means the quality of being a unit, or being one.
- Point out that after September 11th, people didn’t focus about their differences; they felt connected to one another. People did kind things for each other and served their communities together.
- Draw a circle on the board and write Service in the circle. Ask students to think of jobs where people serve others. Create a concept web by writing each of their suggestions in a circle connected to the Service circle.
- If needed, guide students to include community helpers like firefighters, police officers, doctors, and nurses.

### Read About it

- Display the How 9/11 Became a Day of Service slide deck.
- Read each slide aloud, pausing as needed to define unknown words.
  - When the text supports it, ask volunteers to point out context clues that can help define the meaning of an unknown word.
    - For example, “comfort” on the second slide can give a general idea of the meaning of “reassure”.
    - “Divide” on slide 8 can work as a context clue to “unite”.

- Distribute a copy of How 9/11 Became a day of Service Comprehension Check to each student. Ask students to work in groups to answer each question.
  - Each student should fill out a paper, and students should use pencils because they may need to change their answers to the last question in the next steps.
  - Remind students to write their answers to each question in complete sentences.
- After the groups meet, have a volunteer summarize the text, then ask a representative from each group to share what they think the main idea is.
- From the group suggestions, work as a class to come to consensus on the main idea.
  - If students need to revise the answer they wrote for the last question, they should do so.

## Think About It

- Have students reflect in their journals by using the Journal #3 printable to complete a Venn diagram comparing themselves to a friend or family member.

## Share About It

- Give each student a copy of the Family Letter #3 printable to share with their family.

## Extension Activities

- Consider watching the BrainPop video about 9/11 (but please preview it before you watch it with students):  
<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/september11th/>
- Read a book about 9/11 aloud to students (again, please preview first).
  - *September 11 Then and Now* by Peter Benoit
  - *America Is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day the Towers Fell* by Don Brown
  - *Towers Falling* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
  - *I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001* by Lauren Tarshis

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How 9/11 Became a Day of Service

### Comprehension Check

Discuss with your group the answers to each question. Then write your own answer.

What was the goal of 9/11 families when they created 9/11 Day?

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How did 9/11 become an official day of service?

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What happens each day on 9/11?

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What is the main idea of the “How 9/11 Became a Day of Service” presentation?

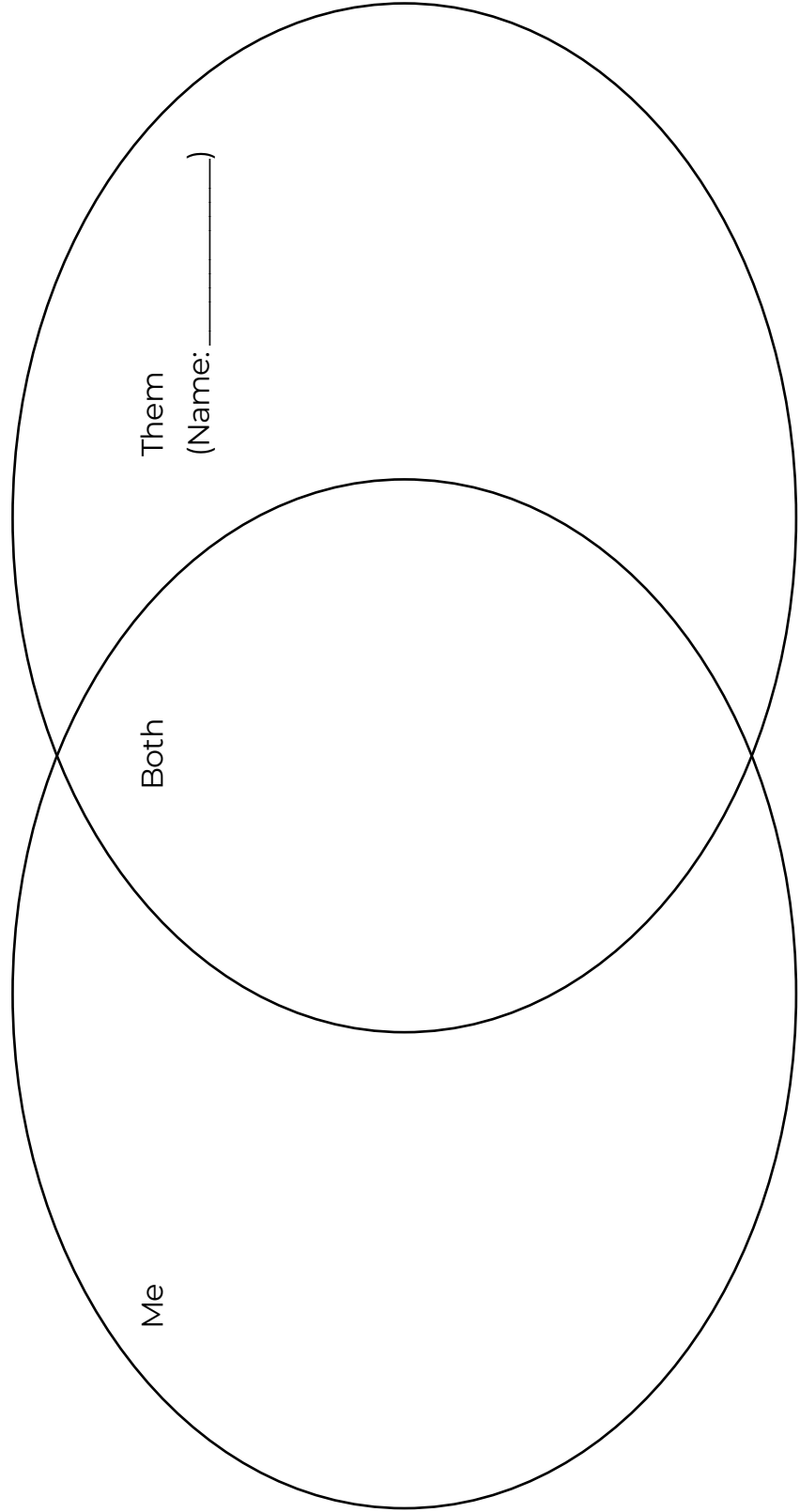
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal #3: Unity

Think about someone you consider very different from you. In the Venn Diagram, write at least three things that make you unique in the left oval. In the right oval, write to be consistent with other instructions, at least three things that make the other person unique. In the area where the ovals overlap, write three things you have in common.



Dear Family,

As we continue to prepare for a service project as part of the 9/11 National Day of Service, our class has been learning about the origins and purpose of 9/11 Day. It is a day meant to nurture the spirits of service and unity that people felt in the days after September 11, 2001.

## What is service?

Service means helping or doing things for other people.

## What is unity?

Unity means a state of oneness or togetherness.

A note about the events of 9/11/2001:

- Our lesson focused on 9/11 Day, a National Day of Service and Remembrance that is meant to nurture the spirit of unity and giving that grew out of tragedy in the days after September 11, 2001. We have not related the events of 9/11 in detail during class, but if you choose to do so with your child or your child has questions, many wonderful books and websites are available to guide you.
- Here are a few sites you might consider, but please review them yourself to determine which might be appropriate for your child.
- Learning 9/11 – Global Game Changers (animated video)  
<https://vimeo.com/449257827>
- National Public Radio offers this advice for adults who are talking to children about the topic:  
<https://www.npr.org/2021/09/09/1035454983/how-to-talk-about-9-11-with-a-new-generation-of-kids>
- The Survivor Tree (video and poem)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU1rf-481QI>
- 9/11 Memorial – (lesson plan and video [actual footage])  
<https://www.911memorial.org/learn/students-and-teachers/lesson-plans/what-happened-911-part-i>

We are looking forward to choosing and planning our service projects to celebrate 9/11 Day. Stay tuned!