

Commemorating 9/11 in the Classroom

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum will be officially dedicated this September on the 10th anniversary of the attacks of 2001. The memorial is located at the site of the former World Trade Center complex in Manhattan and its dedication will take place on September 11, 2011, in a ceremony for the families of those killed at the World Trade Center site, in a field in Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon, as well as the six people killed in the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. The memorial will open to the general public the following day.

The 9/11 memorial features two tremendous waterfalls and reflecting pools that are an acre in size, and are encircled by bronze panels that feature the names of all those who died.

The lesson plans immediately available are:

The Spirit of Volunteerism

www.911memorial.org/spirit-volunteerism, explores the themes of service and volunteerism that permeated the events of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath. Countless individuals took tremendous risks to help others. This spirit of service inspired others around the world to be involved in any way they could. This lesson includes an eight-minute film titled “The Spirit of Volunteerism: 9/11 and Beyond.”

Tribute Art and 9/11

www.911memorial.org/tribute-art-911, provides a detailed timeline and lesson plan that focuses on the artistic response

to 9/11. In the days after the attacks, a fiberglass replica of the Statue of Liberty mysteriously appeared outside the station of a firehouse that had lost 15 men at the World Trade Center. In the coming days, weeks, and months, that statue became the site of countless individual contributions—cards, postcards, miniature flags, photos, badges, and scores of additional mementos—as others sought a venue for their grief and a path for healing. This lesson includes a downloadable poster of the fiberglass replica and explores how art serves as a vehicle for expressions of grief, recovery, healing and rebuilding, and how it fosters community building and personal growth.

The lesson explores the meaning of symbols, and whether they become stronger after a community suffers a crisis.

The reflecting pools are set in the location of the original towers and are surrounded by a field of more than 400 trees, in a design intended to symbolize hope and renewal and aimed at making the plaza one of the most eco-friendly in existence. The 9/11 Memorial Museum, to be opened in the fall of 2012, will house a range of artifacts, photographs, audio and video tapes, memorabilia, and much more.

For educators interested in teaching ideas and lesson plans that explore the attacks of September 11, the memorial offers resources for teachers through its website at www.911memorial.org/ (click on Teach & Learn). The institution plans to expand its educational resources with contributions from teachers in New York and New Jersey.

Other discussion questions include, How do we personalize a symbol’s meaning through tribute art? And, What motivates people to create memorials after a tragedy? The activity asks students to pick a symbol representing patriotism, tolerance, or peace and express artistically what it means to them.

Other Resources:

9/11 FAQ, www.911memorial.org/faqabout911, provides basic information about the World Trade Center and the Twin Towers, the attacks, the perpetrators and broader context of al Qaeda’s Islamist extremism, and the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site.

9/11 Interactive Timeline

www.911memorial.org/interactive-911-



Above and below: Renderings by Squared Design Lab. (Courtesy of National September 11 Memorial & Museum.)



timeline, uses images, audio and video, to detail the events of 9/11 as the day unfolded.

Webcasts: Exploring 9/11

www.911memorial.org/webcasts-exploring-911, looks at the ongoing impact of the attacks. In the featured interviews, scholars and experts express a range of views on 9/11 and explore questions about values, national security, culture, and politics. The webcasts are grouped by the following themes—Memory and Memorialization; Building the Memorial & Museum; 9/11 and its Aftermath; Middle East History and Security—and each includes a study guide.

Talking to Children about 9/11

www.911memorial.org/talking-your-

children-about-911, offers guidelines for helping teachers, school administrators, and parents cope with difficult emotions and convey the details of this tragic event.

Online Articles

World Trade Center History

www.911memorial.org/world-trade-center-history, offers an overview of the World Trade Center and the Twin Towers, provides key facts such as the number of stories (110 each), and year completed (1973) and other interesting details.

Rescue and Recovery

www.911memorial.org/world-trade-center-history, chronicles the aftermath of the attacks, including a timeline of the

days, weeks, and months spent extinguishing fires, searching for survivors and for victims' remains.

9/11-Related Terror

www.911memorial.org/911-related-terror, describes other terrorist assaults, specifically those by al Qaeda, or modeled after al Qaeda attacks, demonstrating how 9/11 is part of a continuing global story.

Compiled by Social Education Staff

A NEW DIMENSION NCSS 2011

SPEAKER

photo by Jack Miller



Diane Ravitch

Research Professor of Education, New York University, and author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*

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SPEAKER



Rex Ellis

Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

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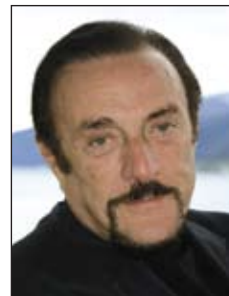
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Co-Director, Foreign Policy Research Institute Wachman Center Program on Teaching Innovation

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Philip G. Zimbardo

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