



Land of the Free, Home of the Brave

A HOT TOPICS HOT SERIALS NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT FROM



Look Back With Pride, Look Ahead With Hope



It has been said that the newspaper is the freshest form of history. Look through today's newspaper and choose a story about the 9/11 anniversary. Write a five-W summary of the story, telling who, what, when, where, and why.

Common Core Standard: determine central ideas of a text, summarize key supporting details and ideas

This Hot Topics Hot Serials section was:
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On September 11, 2001, life in America changed.

After terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., many people began to worry about the future. They were – and some still are, even ten years later – concerned about what might happen next.

But Americans learned a great deal from that horrific event. Wonderful stories came along with the scary ones. There were stories of heroes, stories of love and faith, and tales of the truth about the American spirit. And these very stories, as well as others like them throughout our history, gave America a much-needed shot of hope for the future. That hope, and the determination to rise from the ashes of that day, brought America out of the darkness into the light of the next day.

A flag that hung across the street from Ground Zero speaks volumes about America. Despite the destruction all around it, that flag remained a symbol of how America dealt with the tragedy. The flag was damaged but still it flew, with the eyes of the world upon it.

The 9/11 flag made the words of our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, come alive with new meaning.

*And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

The answer to that question is a resounding "YES." The flag still waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave. America stood united and strong on 9/11 and after. But what makes America so strong? What does America count on when times are tough? It's a combination of all good things – power, resilience, responsibility, compassion, diversity, creativity, and endurance. This section will take a look at the traits that make up the American spirit and give our nation the strength to endure. We'll look at times throughout our history when these admirable traits brought America through difficult times.

As you read the stories about us in this section and in your local newspaper, think about what makes you proud to be an American. Share your thoughts with your classmates and your parents.



Patriotic cover art available in T-shirts and other items. Visit: <http://www.zazzle.com/iamtheanswer>

What Happened on September 11, 2001

On that September morning on the East coast, skies were exceptionally blue, the air was crisp and clear, and all systems were “go” for a great day. Suddenly, the unthinkable happened. At 8:46 A.M., a plane – American Airlines Flight 11– crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York. There was a deafening crash and a huge burst of flame, and although no one quite knew what was happening, many people thought it was an accident. Soon enough, they’d know it had not been an accident.

Earlier that morning, at 7:59, Flight 11 had taken off from Boston on its way to Los Angeles. At 8:14, United Airlines Flight 175 departed the same airport with the same destination. At 8:20, American Flight 77 left Washington, D.C., headed for Los Angeles. And, at 8:42, United Flight 93 left the Newark Airport bound for San Francisco.

At 9:03 A.M., Flight 175 crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center. At 9:37, Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. At 9:45, an operator got a cell phone call from a passenger on Flight 93 reporting that the plane had been hijacked and that the passengers planned to fight the hijackers. Almost 20 minutes later, at 10:03, that plane crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

At 9:59, the south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed, followed by the north tower at 10:28.

There were no survivors on any of the planes. Almost 3,000 people were killed in the attacks on that day, more than 2,700 of them in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The people who died represented more than 90 countries.

Within a few hours, the FBI identified the 19 attackers. One hijacker’s suitcase hadn’t made it onto the plane with him. In it, the FBI found papers with critical information about the plan. The information pointed to the involvement and leadership of Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network known as al-Qaeda.

The name al-Qaeda means “the base” in Arabic. Bin Laden formed the group in the late 1980s with the initial goal of getting the U.S. armed forces to leave Saudi Arabia and Somalia, using violence as needed. Bin Laden, a follower of Islam, was unhappy about the U.S. support of Israel and of other countries that did not follow Islamic beliefs.

Bin Laden made a public announcement of his war against America. He urged Muslims around the world to join in attacks against the U.S. His network began recruiting and training young militant Muslims around the world. In 1991, a bomb exploded in the parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York. That attack was traced to al-Qaeda. In 1998, U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed, and again, the attacks were linked to al-Qaeda.

In 2000, suicide bombers attacked the ship U.S.S. Cole while it was in a harbor in Yemen. It was suspected that bin Laden ordered that attack.

Just after the 9/11 attacks, bin Laden supposedly fled into the mountains in Afghanistan. The U.S. and its allies began an attack on Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2001. Nearly ten years later, on May 1, 2011, President Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed Osama bin Laden. They had found him in a compound deep in Pakistan.



We claim this ground in remembrance
of the events of September 11, 2001.
To honor the 184 people whose lives were
lost, their families, and all who sacrifice
that we may live in freedom.
We will never forget.

Editorial Credit: Vacclav / Shutterstock.com

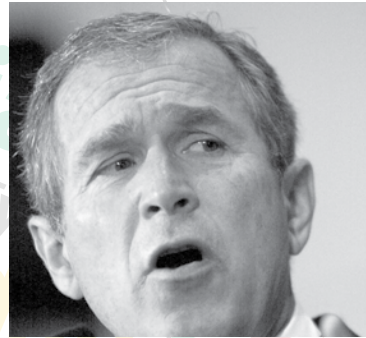


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America and the World Responds — Afghanistan and Iraq

While the search for bin Laden and the fighting in Afghanistan continued, America's attention turned to another country in the Middle East — Iraq. Saddam Hussein, a dictator, had led Iraq since 1979. He had treated his own citizens poorly and invaded neighboring Kuwait in 1990, allegedly committing atrocities. Iraq was driven out of Kuwait by an international coalition. Following that, ongoing international inspections looked for suspected nuclear weapons.



By 2003, President George W. Bush suggested that Hussein had nuclear weapons, also known as “weapons of mass destruction.” Bush also said that Hussein had violated the U.N. Security Council resolutions that followed the war on Kuwait. Bush urged other countries to join the U.S. in an invasion of Iraq. The mission began in March 2003.

Hussein's government was toppled, and Hussein was captured and ultimately executed. Elections were held in Iraq, as democracy took root. But there were consistent violent uprisings by “insurgents,” or people in Iraq who were opposed to the U.S. action in their country. Those actions have lessened, but fighting continues in Iraq. No “weapons of mass destruction” were ever found.



Editorial Credit: Georgios Kollidas / Shutterstock.com

The cost of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, both in human life (4,000 to 5,000 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq and about 1,500 in Afghanistan) and in dollars spent, has been huge. Ultimately, the war effort may cost the U.S. as much as \$1 trillion. Americans are divided on the best way to get out of the military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Check
the Voice
of Freedom

President Obama is working very hard to keep America safe. Find a story about him in today's print or digital newspaper. What is he doing today to help America?

Common Core Standard: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently



American history is full of stories and events that make us powerful. Consider materials that we believe are strong. For example, iron is strong, but steel is stronger because it joins iron with carbon to make something stronger than its parts would be by themselves. So it is with Americans; we are stronger when we work together, united. The American people are strong today because we learn from history. We blend what we learn with what we believe. It is the merging of our knowledge with our beliefs that gives us power — the power of steel.

Patriotism in Good Times and Bad



Picture this scene. The president learns of the attack on America. He goes to address Congress about declaring war. As he enters, the announcement is made, “Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States.” Are you imagining George Bush in 2001? In fact, the president in this scene is Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the date was Dec. 8, 1941, the day after an attack and the day that America declared war against Japan. While some people thought the attacks on 9/11 were the first on American soil, they were not. The Japanese attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base on the

Hawaiian island of Oahu was the first. Although Hawaii didn’t become a state until 1959, when it became the 50th state in the nation, Hawaii was an American territory in 1941, when the Pearl Harbor attack happened.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt said, “Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of Japan.” The United States suffered terrible losses in the attack, but we had enormous means to strike back and to win the war. We had those means then, and all throughout our history. We still have them today.

In times of peace, and especially in times of war, Americans love our country. It is that love, called patriotism, that gives us the strength we need to defend ourselves.

We don’t all agree with everything that the government does, but we do agree on one thing: America is a great country in which to live.

The American Spirit — Iron and Steel



We're Coming to America — Immigration and Resilience



America has been described as a “melting pot,” where people of different groups blended together. But some people thought the metaphor was inaccurate, because, unlike a soup, where everything blends into one, America was more like a “salad bowl,” where everything maintains its own identity while existing side by side with others. Now, another metaphor is popular, that America is like a “symphony,” where each instrument plays in concert with the others to produce a beautiful sound but where each instrument also can stand alone. Which do you think is the most accurate description? Write an essay describing your thoughts and supporting your ideas with examples from the newspaper.

Common Core Standard: Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions

Resilience means the ability to bounce back after something gets you down. Bouncing back after 9/11 was in the finest tradition of America. Throughout history, Americans, especially those who immigrated to America have been resilient. When we Americans trace our ancestry back far enough, we come to a startling realization. Almost none of us — black, white, Jewish, Navajo, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Irish — actually come from here. We all are immigrants. We all descend from people who came from somewhere else. Many of us can trace our heritage to the wave of immigration between 1890 and 1940; more than one-third of today's Americans can do that.

Some of us descend from colonists who immigrated in the 1600s and 1700s. Some come from slaves and servants who were forcibly brought to these shores. Others came much more recently and are the subject of heated debate in the United States today. We are a nation of immigrants, and much of our history — even before we were a country — is the story of new people coming in and trying to settle into the ways and lifestyles of this land. In that history, there are countless stories to be told, learned from, and savored. Those stories abound with the resilience of Americans new and old — we bounce back.

Between 1871 and 1911, about 20 million people came from Europe to America. Most were poor and wanted to make a better life. But they faced daunting obstacles. Some didn't know anyone in their new country. They had left their families at home. Most didn't speak or read English. They couldn't find work in the ways they had in their home countries.

But resilience and determination, perseverance and persistence all contributed to their success. The new Americans worked hard until they had enough money to pay for their families to join them. Many went on to live happy and successful lives.



Immigration is the backbone of this nation. It is America's story, and it changes daily. Immigration has changed the faces of America, too, and changed the way we see ourselves. According to the 2010 census, there are now about 50.5 million Hispanics. That means that one of every six Americans is Hispanic, with roots in any of 20 Spanish-speaking countries. Of course, they're not all immigrants. Much of America's Hispanic population was born in the U.S.

By the year 2050, projections indicate that non-Hispanic white people, who now comprise two-thirds of Americans, will become a minority and will make up less than half of America's people.

One thing about America's people will not change. We will continue to be resilient and strong.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Emma Lazarus



American history is overflowing with stories of creativity, inventive thinking, and imagination – all key ingredients in keeping America strong.

Thomas Alva Edison was one great American inventor. Because darkness was a problem, Edison found a solution. Someone else thought up the idea of the light bulb, but Edison found a way to make it work so that people could use it. He did actually invent lots of other things – almost one invention each week. Among his inventions were the phonograph, the movie camera, and the copier. This kind of creative thinking in many men and women today will help us find ways to solve problems and step into the light of the future.



George Washington Carver was born into slavery but ultimately earned advanced college degrees in agriculture. After the Civil War, Southern farmers weren't able to successfully grow the crop they had grown for years – cotton. The years of that crop had taken much of the needed nitrogen from the soil. Carver solved that problem by introducing the farmers to new crops

like soybeans, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. But there wasn't much need for those crops, so Carver had another problem to solve. With a great deal of work and research, Carver developed hundreds of products that used those crops. Again, American ingenuity triumphed and moved the country forward after tough times.

And consider the computer. Computers work wonders in our modern age, but if there were no programs to enable them to communicate with humans, they wouldn't be helpful. Grace Murray Hopper was an officer in the Navy, assigned to work in the computer lab at Harvard University in 1943. Later in her career, she developed the first program that translated English into a language the machine could "process." She went on to work hard to get businesses interested in computers and to help people to understand what these machines could do.

American ingenuity reacted to the 9/11 attacks, changing air travel. New technology led to improved security measures to prevent future attacks.



America Discovers, Creates, and Solves Problems



Think about how liberty and creativity are connected to science. Find a story in the print or digital newspaper to use as an example.

Common Core Standard: present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace



No Limits in America



Find someone in today's digital or print newspaper who you think is destined for greatness. Explain why. Then, add a paragraph describing one great thing you hope to do someday.

Common Core Standard: Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose

One of the American traits that elevates everyone is the ability to rise up from a simple start to achieve greatness.

Abraham Lincoln was one man who truly understood that America imposed no limits. He was a poor farm boy with no schooling, but he had hopes and dreams. He taught himself by reading books, he worked as a clerk in a general store, he served in the Army, and he became a lawyer. Then, he was elected president. He was able to go from such simple beginnings to the most important job in America because his path had no limits.

Recent history offers another inspiring story of someone who rose from simple beginnings to achieve greatness – President Obama.

Ann Dunham was a young girl in Kansas. Her dad worked on oil rigs, and, after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, he joined the Army to fight in World War II. Ann's mother worked in a bomber factory during the war. After the war, her parents bought a house and moved to Hawaii. While she was a student at the University of Hawaii, Ann, who was white, met a young black student from Kenya named Barack Obama. He had grown up in Africa, where he herded goats. When he won a scholarship, he was able to go to study at the University of Hawaii.



The younger Barack Obama, named after his father, was born in Hawaii on Aug. 4, 1961. His parents separated when young "Barry," as he was called, was only 2 years old, and they later divorced. His father studied at Harvard and later returned to Africa. His mother remarried and took her son to Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1967. When young Barry was 10, he went back to Hawaii to live with his mother's parents, his grandparents. His mother eventually returned to live in Indonesia, but Barry stayed with his grandparents.

The family didn't have much money. Obama's grandfather sold furniture; his grandmother worked in a bank. Although he did see his mother from time to time, young Barry saw his father only one other time, when he was 10. Barack Sr. died in a car accident in 1982.

Young Obama was accepted into one of Hawaii's top schools, Punahou School. He played golf and poker, sang in the choir, and wrote for the school's literary journal. But he also struggled with his biracial heritage. While his family at home was white, the world saw him as a black person. He was perhaps, a typical teenager; he played basketball and hung out with friends.

After high school, he attended Occidental College in Los Angeles. He changed his name back from Barry to Barack, got involved in politics, and eventually graduated from Columbia University. He worked for a while as a community organizer in Harlem, then moved to Chicago and did similar work trying to improve living conditions in poor communities.



He was then accepted into Harvard Law School, where he was the first African American to be elected president of the Harvard Law Review. With that achievement, Obama could have gone to work for a large law firm and made lots of money. But instead, he chose to work for a small Chicago firm specializing in civil rights and advocating for poor people. He didn't make much money, but he was doing the exact work he wanted to do.

He decided to run for election and won a seat in the Illinois State Senate in 1996. He served eight years and then won election as a U.S. senator from Illinois.

At the Democratic convention in 2004, Obama gave a rousing speech. He spoke about how America works best when its people support each other. In part, he said, "It's that fundamental belief — I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper — that makes this country work." Some people said then that the formerly little known Obama would be the Democrats' next rising star.

And he was, ultimately making history by being elected president of the United States in 2008. He was the first African American to achieve that goal. His accomplishments prove that America truly is a land of limitless possibility, no matter who you are, who your parents are, or where you came from.

Your future is up to you. That is the promise America makes to you.



Can you find a story in today's print or digital newspaper that gives you hope? Write a summary of the story, and tell why it makes you hopeful.

Use this frame to draw and write about something that makes your spirit stronger and gives you hope for the future.

Common Core Standard: Develop a topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples, use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts



Difficult Times in the Economy

One of the most serious tests of American resilience has been the economy and the pain it has inflicted over the last few years. There has been much discussion in recent years about troubles in our economy, and people are worried about their money. This certainly is not the first time in our country's history that money was a serious problem. It may help you understand all this talk about the economy if you know a bit about the stock market. Stocks are shares of ownership in a company. If you buy stock in a company and that company becomes more successful, your shares are worth more than what you paid for them, and you make money. But if the company becomes less successful, those shares are worth less and you lose money.

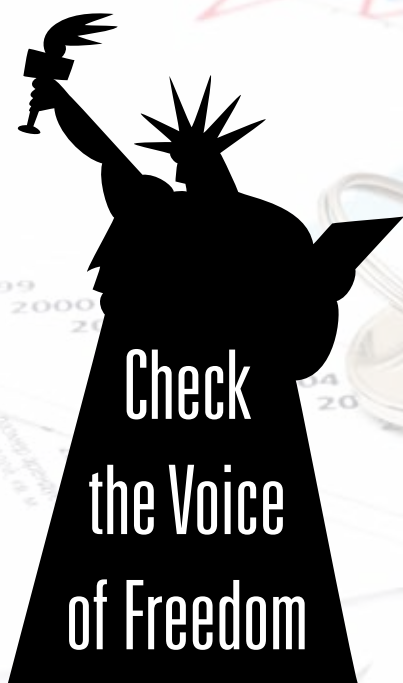
Imagine what it must have been like in 1929, when the stock market suddenly crashed, meaning that almost all shares sharply dropped in value and that millions of people who owned shares lost their money. Even those folks who didn't own stock panicked when banks also failed and people lost their savings.

Everyone was worried about money, so they stopped spending money and bought only what they needed to live. This drop in spending put stores and factories out of business and left millions of people out of work. The time was known as the Great Depression, but America's government worked hard to create jobs and help banks to work well again. Eventually, the economy improved with some hard work by all.

More recently, in October 2008, the stock market fell significantly, and millions of Americans lost money. And it wasn't just the stock market that declined. For a number of years before 2008, people who really couldn't afford to pay mortgages were given home loans. The banks that made those loans weren't worried about losing their money because if the homeowners didn't pay off the loans, the banks could take back the houses, which were very valuable. But then housing prices fell so sharply that the houses weren't worth as much as they had been. Some loans were for more money than the house was worth, so even if the bank took back the house, the bank lost money. Investment banks failed and went out of business. Millions of dollars were lost.

But, the government "bailed out" some banks by giving them money to keep them in business. Slowly, the economy is turning around. The stock market rose, and even the housing market is showing signs of improvement.

The American economy has its ups and downs, but it is a strong one.



Take a close look at the Business section of the newspaper. Locate a story about a successful business. Identify three facts about its success. Then find another story in the news about our economy and summarize it.

Common Core Standard: know and use text features to locate key facts or information in text



Diversity and Tolerance

America is diverse.

Our population is made up of people from a variety of ethnic and racial and religious backgrounds. Each of us brings a unique set of talents and skills. Our diversity adds a lot to our American character and is one of the great strengths of America.

Sometimes our commitment to diversity is tested. After 9/11/01, there were some people who blamed all Muslims for the attacks. But, over time most Americans understood that the people who perpetrated 9/11 were extremists, and that it's never right to blame an entire group or religion for the acts of a few.

As different as the American people are, they all have the same rights – and the same wish to keep their country strong. Many people fought hard to protect the rights that are the foundation of our great country. As it says in our Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

People who celebrated America’s diversity were among the first to work for equal rights for all Americans. Starting with the slave revolts more than 400 years ago, African Americans struggled for respectability and for equal rights in schools, housing, and jobs. The fight was long and it often seemed hopeless, but they drove on. They fought with actions and with words, with violence and nonviolence, and, finally, their determination paid off when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed. That law made discrimination illegal. The struggle for civil rights is a part of American history that inspires all of us to keep fighting, even when the goal seems too far away. The prize is worth the work.



Witness to History



When you ask adults, such as parents or teachers, to tell you about an important and historic event that happened during their lifetime, they will probably have many to choose from, including the events of September 11, 2001.

Take a few minutes to interview an adult about one event he or she remembers. Ask this person to tell you some of the historical details he or she witnessed and how he or she felt about them. On a separate sheet of paper, write about one event you think you will tell your children about.

Finally, think about what you think America’s best traits are. Look at the flag and consider what living in America means to you. Here is one more bit of “*The Star-Spangled Banner*” to consider as you write about what it means to you to live in the “land of the free and the home of the brave.”

*Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*



Choose the top five stories in today’s print or digital newspaper. Rank them from most to least important. Take a class vote to choose the most important story of the day.

Common Core Standard: know and use text features to locate key facts or information in text



Resources to Learn More About 9/11



There are many online sites designed to help you learn about 9/11 and its aftermath. Start with your local newspaper. In it, you'll find stories about 9/11 and the connections to the place you call home.

The Foreign Policy Research Institute offers a page of young peoples' questions about what happened on 9/11 with brief and straightforward answers. The information about bin Laden is outdated but the facts about what happened on 9/11 may help provide a clear picture for students.

<http://www.fpri.org/education/911webcast/answers.html>

There is a comprehensive program offered by the September 11 Education Program

<http://www.learnabout9-11.org/>

September 11 has been declared a national day of service.

More information can be found here: **<http://www.911dayofservice.org>**

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc can be found online at **<http://www.911memorial.org>**

Scholastic Magazine offers a comprehensive website about 9/11 at **http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/911/kids_character.htm**

History.com has videos, photos and other information about 9/11.

There are also interactive maps that teach about the events of that day.

Channel One News offers 9/11: Then and Now.

The information could serve as an introduction to what happened.

Inside 9/11 is a video archive presented by National Geographic.

The CBBC offers a guide to 9/11 for young people. **<http://tinyurl.com/6awww9e>**

The Biography Channel offers a photo gallery of that day.

www.biography.com/profiles-of-9-11/photo-gallery.jsp

From CBS there's "The Day that Changed America." **<http://tinyurl.com/3lh23vy>**

On 9/11/11, check out **www.newseum.org** to see the front pages of many newspapers.



Please note that websites change frequently so some of these resources may not be available.