

September 11, 2001 Reading Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____



The North and South Towers of the Twin Towers were part of a complex of buildings in New York City known as the World Trade Center. They stood at 1,368 ft. and 1,362 ft. respectively. They were the tallest buildings in the world when they were completed. There were hundreds of companies with offices in the buildings and tens of thousands of people worked in these two buildings of the World Trade Center.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, multiple airplanes were hijacked in an attack on the United States by a militant group called al-Qaeda.

At 8:46 a.m. American Airlines flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the Twin Towers. First responders and emergency personnel rushed to the scene to try to put out the fire and evacuate as many people as they could. New York City first responders had never dealt with an emergency of this magnitude before. At 9:03 a.m. United Airlines flight 175 flew into the South Tower of the Twin Towers. In that moment, it became obvious that this was not an accident, America was under attack. The emergency doubled and more emergency personnel was called to help.

At 9:37 a.m. American Airlines flight 77 flew into the Pentagon, which is the headquarters for the U.S. Department of Defense.

At 9:59 a.m. in New York City, the South Tower, the second tower to be hit, collapsed. Emergency personnel continued to evacuate as many people as they could from the area and the North Tower, despite the immediate danger to their lives.

Passengers on a fourth plane, United Airlines flight 93 knew that their plane had been hijacked because passengers heard that two planes crashed into the Twin Towers and one was flown into the Pentagon. Without knowing the final destination of their flight, the brave passengers decided to work together to try to overthrow the hijackers. Their plan was successful and at 10:03 a.m. their plane crash landed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All 40 people on the flight were killed. It is still unknown precisely where the plane was headed, however according to the 9/11 Commission Report, it is believed that its target was likely the White House, the U.S. Capitol, or another symbol of the American Republic. The courage and sacrifice of the passengers of United Airlines flight 93 likely saved many lives.

At 10:28 a.m. in New York City, the North Tower collapsed. First responders and emergency personnel began working to remove debris and rescue anyone trapped.

The site of devastation was about 16 acres, which is about 12 football fields. People from around the country went to New York City to help. A solemn

ceremony with no words marked the end of the cleanup on May 30, 2002. People working there breathed in dust and smoke that was harmful to their health. As a result, many people have died or continue to suffer from 9/11-related health issues.

Today, the World Trade Center site is home to the Freedom Tower and two Reflecting Pools that were created where the Twin Towers once stood. Together, the two Reflecting Pools represent the enormous void that was left when the buildings collapsed.

Across all the impacted sites on 9/11, 2,977 people lost their lives. At the World Trade Center, 2,753 people were killed, including 343 members of the Fire Department of the City of New York, 23 members of the New York City Police Department, 37 members of the Port Authority Police Department and 3 members of the New York State Office of Court Administration.

At the Pentagon 184 people lost their lives. It is now home to the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

The Flight 93 National Memorial was built to honor the people who stopped an attack on our nation's capital, and in doing so, lost their lives. It includes the Tower of Voices, which is a tribute to the 40 heroes who gave their lives to save others.



At the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, every victim's age and location at the time of the attack are inscribed into the Memorial by the placement and direction of the 184 Memorial Units.



The Freedom Tower and one of its Reflecting Pools.



The Tower of Voices at the Flight 93 National Memorial stands ninety-three feet tall and holds forty different wind chimes, one for each of the forty passengers and crew aboard flight 93.