

# The Fight Against Terrorism

All questions require at least  
THREE sentences on own paper.

## PLACES & TERMS

**terrorism** the surprise use of violence by an individual or group to intimidate a government or civilian population for social or political ends

**global network** worldwide interconnected group

**coalition** alliance

**biological weapons** bacteria and viruses that cause diseases

## The September 11 Attacks

**What** happened during the September 11 attacks?

**Terrorism** is the surprise use of violence by an individual or group to intimidate a government or civilian population to achieve social or political ends. On the morning of September 11, 19 Arab terrorists hijacked four airplanes. They crashed two planes into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. They crashed one plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Another plane crashed in Pennsylvania. The hijackers may have been overtaken by a group of passengers who had learned about the World Trade Center attacks from their cellular phones.

The hijacked planes became missiles as they crashed into the twin towers. Thousands of people were able to escape before the towers eventually crumbled. The plane that crashed into the Pentagon tore a 75-foot hole into the building. Over 3,500 people died in the attacks. This number includes 350 New York City firefighters who died while trying to rescue people in the twin towers. Eight

buildings were either destroyed or partially collapsed. The disaster area in New York covered 16 acres.

After the attacks, investigators worked to find those responsible for the attacks. Investigators pointed to a **global network** of Islamic terrorists known as al-Qaeda. Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden leads al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda opposed American involvement in Muslim lands. Al-Qaeda has planned and carried out many terrorist attacks to oppose this involvement.

### 1. Who is responsible for the attacks of September 11?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Aftermath of the Attacks

**How** did the United States and the world react to the attacks?

The attacks shocked Americans and its allies. George W. Bush called the attacks "acts of war." He

promised to punish those responsible. He also pushed for new security measures.

The United States sought to build a coalition of nations to fight terrorism. These nations pledged to share information on terrorists, arrest terrorists, and seize financial assets of terrorists. The group also supported U.S.-led air strikes in Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden was based. In October, 2001, the United States also sent in ground forces to hunt down bin Laden and destroy al-Qaeda.

New airport security measures were put into place after the attacks. Also, extra steps were taken at public places such as sports stadiums and mass transit. The Office of Homeland security was also created to organize homeland security measures.

## **2. What new security measures were enacted after September 11?**

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## **Facing Terrorist Threats**

### ***What other terrorist threats exist?***

Terrorism has been a problem for many years.

Preventing terrorism is difficult. Terrorists move in secret. Some terrorist groups want territory, like the Palestinian extremists in Southwest Asia. Others want to change government policies like the domestic terrorists who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Biological weapons are bacteria or viruses that cause diseases. After September 11, letters containing anthrax were sent to members of the news media and members of Congress. Investigators believe that the letters may have been the work of a lone terrorist rather than an organized group.

The United States and its allies want to eliminate the threat of terrorism. They want to break up terrorist groups and increase security. This fight could last many years. The United States and its allies also have to balance security with maintaining peoples' freedoms and individual rights.

## **3. What are some of the goals of terrorist groups?**

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.