



## Example assembly 1: Why is it still important to remember 9/11?

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The anniversary of 9/11 always features prominently in the news. Your students will be too young to have any memory of the actual events of that day. An assembly commemorating the anniversary would be a good way to build up their understanding of an event that has had a profound impact on all our lives. It will also provide an opportunity to counter some of the myths that have arisen around 9/11 and to help them reflect on some of the consequences from that day.

There are two ways you could start off the assembly. One is by showing the students a short PowerPoint presentation of iconic images from the day itself – a selection of these can be found in the [Image & film bank](#). Use these to ask the students what they know about 9/11. Can they remember what they were doing on the day itself?

Another approach would be to use a series of PowerPoint slides showing different artefacts from the World Trade Center – see the [Artefacts PowerPoint](#) (found in [History 1](#)). Start with the first slide of the cash receipt from the café at the World Trade Center and ask the students what the story behind this everyday object might be. Then show them some other artefacts (Slides 3, 4 and 5) and ask them to consider how these are connected with the first object. Help them to come to the conclusion that these are all linked to 9/11. Go on to ask them what they know about 9/11. Can they remember what they were doing on the day itself?

Share your own memories of that day and if necessary, prime a few members of staff beforehand to share their memories and immediate reactions to the 9/11 attacks.

Go through the sequence of events from that day using part of the [Interactive timeline](#). As you do this, ask the students to say what they think made 9/11 so shocking at the time, e.g. it came out of the blue; the USA had never been subject to this kind of terrorist attack before; the scale was difficult to take in; it was viewed worldwide on television as events were happening; it felt like the end of the world and no one knew when the attacks would stop or who might be next; it bore an awful similarity to many disaster movies except that this was for real.

Ask three students to come to the front and read out different statements explaining why it is still important to remember 9/11 (it would be a good idea to select and brief the students beforehand):

- It is important to remember the 2,977 victims and their families who are still affected by events on that day.
- It is important to remember that the events of that day changed the world forever and that we have all been affected by them in some way.
- It is important to remember 9/11 so that we all work together to try to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

Conclude the assembly with a couple of minutes of silent reflection.

Further ideas and resources about the day itself can be found in the following subject topics on this website:

- [History 1 – What made 9/11 so shocking?](#)
- [English & drama – Breaking news: How was 9/11 represented in the media and other accounts?](#)