MUSLIM STUDIES CURRICULUM

a collaborative project between CAIR-NJ & Teaching While Muslim

DEFENDING EDUCATION

THE IMPACT OF 9/11 ON MUSLIMS

ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES OR ENGLISH

RATIONALE

The catastrophic events of 9/11 had such a massive impact that it sparked the phrase a "post 9/11 world." Directly influenced by US foreign policy, the tragic events of 9/11 unleashed a domino effect of events that marked an aggressive shift in US domestic and foreign policy, sparking the War on Terror and an erosion of civil liberties of many Americans. Understanding the context of 9/11 and its ramifications is an essential part of understanding the world as we see it today.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the significance of 9/11?
- How did 9/11 impact people living in the United States and abroad?
- What were the repercussions on Muslims after 9/11?
- How is a bully defined?

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

- A group self-identifying as AlQaeda hailing from the mountains of Afghanistan, launched an attack on civilians in the United States in three different places and many innocent people lost their lives.
- A bully is someone who uses their position or power to harm others. Much like a bully, a terrorist is someone who uses violence to spread their ideas. Anyone from any background can be a bully or a terrorist.
- Though 9/11 was not the first attack on the United States, it was a major event that marked an aggressive shift in how the US treated its citizens and other countries.

POTENTIAL MISCONCEPTIONS

- Not all terrorists are Muslims, and not all Muslims are terrorists.
- How a country treats other people is an extension of their values and beliefs.

VOCABULARY

- Islam
- Muslim
- bully
- respect
- war
- Islamophobia
- terrorism
- laws
- world
- countries
- stereotypes
- Masjid

RESOURCES

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

- Many 9/11 Lesson Plans
- Teaching about Islamophobia
- Countering Islamophobia Lesson Plan - Learning for Justice
- NEWSELA - 18 years later, America vows not to forget
- Massive List of Resources to teach about 9/11
- Muslims in American after 9/11

BACKGROUND RESOURCES

- The Global War on Terrorism: The First 100 Days (according to the US Gov)
- Statistics from the Iraq War
- 9/11 Commission Resources
- The Guardian: Full text: Bin Laden's "Letter to America"
- Fatwa Against Terrorism
- Throwing Out Iqbal's Case
- US Foreign Policy and Iran
- South Asians and 9/11
- Muslim Women Post-9/11
- Statistics on US Drone Program
- PBS Documentaries on 9/11
- Movie - My Name is Khan
- V for Vendetta
- The Patriot Act

BOOKS

- *Nine, Ten* by Nora Raleigh Baskin
- *Towers Falling* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of John J. Harvey* by Maira Kalman
- *14 Cows for America* by Carmen Agra Deedy and Thomas Gonzalez
- *Just A Drop of Water* by Kerry O'Malley Cerra
- *The Little Chapel That Stood* by A. B. Curtiss
- *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein
- *Saved by the Boats: The Heroic Sea Evacuation of September 11* by Julie Gassman

DEFENDING EDUCATION

THE IMPACT OF 9/11 ON MUSLIMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES OR ENGLISH

RATIONALE

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ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the significance of 9/11?
- How did 9/11 impact people living in the United States and abroad?
- What were the repercussions on Muslims after 9/11?
- How is terrorism defined?

VOCABULARY

- Islam
- Muslim
- Islamophobia
- stereotypes
- masjid
- terrorism
- hate crime
- hijacking
- Soviet Union

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

- A group self-identifying as AlQaeda hailing from the mountains of Afghanistan, launched separate plane hijackings that ended up in different cities, causing the death of almost 3,000 people and the resulting debris from the fallen towers caused lasting health issues in first responders. They launched the attacks in response to America's support of Israel, their involvement in the Persian Gulf War, and the vast presence of the US military in the Middle East. Though 9/11 was not the first attack on the United States, it was a major event that marked an aggressive shift in US domestic and foreign policy, sparking the War on Terror in the Middle East.
- Terrorism is defined differently by different groups of people. The US government defines it as anyone who enacts violence to spread their political ideology. But, usage of the term in the news and media during this time and moving forward seemed to be reserved for people who were Muslim and not other groups of people who were labelled as domestic terrorists by the FBI such as white supremacists, extreme animal rights activists, or anti-abortionists who also used violence to further their cause.
- The US fought the Soviet Union who had invaded Afghanistan in the 1980s by supporting the rebels that stood up against the Russian invaders, including a man named Osama bin Laden and people who later formed the Taliban.
- While Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism existed long before the 9/11 attacks, this time period marked a stark shift in US policy and state sponsored Islamophobia in the US and abroad. There was immediate backlash against anyone perceived to be Muslim which was either the extreme stereotypical portrayal of Muslims as Arab, bearded, and with a turban, or Muslim women who wore hijabs. Many of the hate crimes committed after 9/11 were also toward people of the Sikh community which displays the deep ignorance of religions that many Americans believed in. Along with individual hate crimes, there was backlash against Muslims on the state level towards Muslims in the United States and abroad. For example, the US government passed the Patriot Act which gave the government full authority to surveil Muslims and infringe on their unalienable rights. Masjids, or Muslim houses of worship were also attacked, surveilled, and/or prevented from being built.
- The US declared a "Global War on Terrorism" that they used to justify invading and attacking Iraq (although they did not have weapons of mass destruction), Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The civilian death toll of this global war on terrorism is estimated to be over 800,000 civilians.

POTENTIAL MISCONCEPTIONS

- Not all terrorists are Muslims, and not all Muslims are terrorists.
- How a country treats other people is an extension of their values and beliefs.
- Islam does not advocate for violence.

RESOURCES

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

- Poem: "Mike Check" by Suhair Hammad
- Many 9/11 Lesson Plans
- Teaching about Islamophobia
- Countering Islamophobia Lesson Plan - Learning for Justice
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BOOKS

- Nine, Ten by Nora Raleigh Baskin
- Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Just a Drop of Water by Kelly O'Malley Cerra
- All We Have Left by Wendy Mills
- Eleven by Tom Rogers
- The Looming Tower - Lawernce Wright
- The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation by Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colón

DEFENDING EDUCATION

THE IMPACT OF 9/11 ON MUSLIMS

HIGH SCHOOL | SOCIAL STUDIES OR ENGLISH

RATIONALE

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VOCABULARY

- Islam
- Muslim
- Islamophobia
- international affairs
- stereotypes
- masjid
- terrorism
- hate crime
- Cold War
- The United Nations
- Imperialism
- International Human Rights
- Sikh

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

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- Poem: "First Poem Since" by Suhair Hammad
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- PBS Documentaries on 9/11
- Movie - My Name is Khan
- V for Vendetta
- The Patriot Act

BOOKS

- The Looming Tower - Lawernce Wright
- The Ghost Wars - Steve Coll
- Black Banner - Ali Soufan
- The Patriot Act - Cary Stacy
- 9/11 Commission Report
- Islamophobia & the Politics of Empire - Deepa Kumar
- The Memory of Things by Gae Polisner
- Just a Drop of Water by Kelly O'Malley Cerra
- All We Have Left by Wendy Mills
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
- The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation by Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colón

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