Historical event: What happened at the World Trade Center on 9/11?

The hijacked Flight 11 was crashed into floors 93 to 99 of the North Tower (1 WTC) at 8:46 a.m. The hijacked Flight 175 struck floors 77 to 85 of the South Tower (2 WTC) 17 minutes later at 9:03 a.m. When the towers were struck, between 16,400 and 18,000 people were in the WTC complex. Of those, the vast majority evacuated safely. As they rushed out, first responders rushed in trying to save those still trapped or injured.

The fires from the impacts were intensified by the planes' burning jet fuel. They weakened the steel support trusses, which attached each of the floors to the buildings' exterior walls. Along with the initial damage to the buildings' structural columns, this ultimately caused both towers to collapse. The five other buildings in the WTC complex were also destroyed because of damage sustained when the Twin Towers fell.

The collapse of the buildings left the site devastated. Thousands of volunteers came to Ground Zero to help with the rescue, recovery, and clean-up efforts, and on May 30, 2002, the last piece of WTC steel was ceremonially removed.

Classwork: Write "true" or "false"

- The hijacked Flight 11 was crashed into floors 83 to 99.
- The last piece of WTC steel was ceremonially removed in 2002.
- The second impact occurred 30 minutes after the first one.
- There almost 20.000 people in the WTC complex when the attack happened.
- The plane´s burning jet fuel was the reason why the fire from the impacts were intensified.
- The North tower was attacked at the end.

Historical event: What is Al-Qaeda?

Al-Qaeda is an international Islamist extremist terrorist network founded in the late 1980s by Osama bin Laden, who was killed in a U.S. military operation on May 1, 2011, and others who were involved in the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Their aim has been to overthrow governments in the Middle East, and elsewhere in the Muslim world, which do not strictly enforce a religiously sanctioned political and social order. Attacks against the United States were intended to reduce American support for many of these governments; U.S. support was viewed by al-Qaeda as a major obstacle to creating a global order under Islamic authority.

They have claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks since the early 1990s, including the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the 2000 attack on the USS *Cole*, and

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the 9/11 attacks. They have also aligned themselves with and inspired other terrorist groups who have carried out attacks, including the 2002 Bali bombing, the 2004 Madrid train bombing, the 2005 London bombings, and the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, among many others.

Classwork: Write "true" or "false"

- Osama Bin Laden committed suicide in 2011.

- Al-Qaeda aims to support governments in the Middle East.

- Al-Qaeda is a very extremist terrorist network.

- They attacked the United States in order to reduce the American support for many of the governments that do not strictly enforce a religiously sanctioned political and social order.

Historical event: Why did the terrorists attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?

The terrorists did not have the capacity to destroy the United States militarily, so they set their sights on symbolic targets instead. The Twin Towers, as the centerpieces of the World Trade Center, symbolized globalization and America's economic power and prosperity.

The Pentagon, as the headquarters for the U.S. Department of Defense, serves as a symbol of American military power. It is thought that Flight 93 was headed to the Capitol building, the center of American legislative government.

Al-Qaeda hoped that, by attacking these symbols of American power, they would promote widespread fear throughout the country and severely weaken the United States' standing in the world community, ultimately supporting their political and religious goals in the Middle East and Muslim world.

Classwork: Write "true" or "false"

- The terrorists had the capacity to destroy United States militarily.

- The Twin Towers represented globalization and America's economic power and prosperity.

- The Pentagon is the symbol for American military power.

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- Al-Qaeda attacked the Twin Towers and The Pentagon without any specific reason behind.

- Al-Qaeda wanted to promote widespread fear throughout the country and make the U.S. feel so weak that they will end up supporting Al-Qaeda's political and religious goals in the Middle East and Muslim World.

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