

September 11 Terrorists Attacks



On September 11, 2001, 2,977 people were killed in the deadliest terrorist attacks in American history.

The World Trade Center in March, 2001 *Wikimedia Commons*

The country was utterly shocked. Two planes, hijacked by Islamic jihadists vowing death to all Americans, plowed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. Another plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth plane, presumably headed for the White House or the US Capitol, was ultimately diverted by passengers and ended up crashing in an empty field in Pennsylvania. Millions of Americans watched the second plane hit the South Tower on live television.

It was a terrifying, startling, and humbling event for the country. The 9/11 attacks were the deadliest attacks on American soil since the shock attack at Pearl Harbor 60 years before. The attacks were made even more poignant by their central location and its ongoing devastation. The attacks on the Twin Towers occurred in the country's busiest city on a busy workday. And, the staggered nature of the attacks meant that news footage captured almost everything as it happened, ensuring that most Americans saw the events precisely as they were unfolding.

Find words in the text to match these definitions.

1. Totally:
2. Making a serious promise or decision:
3. Crashed:
4. Went in the direction of:
5. Finally:
6. Frightening:
7. Humiliating:
8. Saddening:
9. Continuing:
10. Shocking:
11. Part of a cinema or television film recording a particular event:
12. Making sure:
13. Happening:



Fill in the gaps.

The worst terrorist attacks in American history occurred on _____. _____ were killed. Two hijacked planes were flown into the _____ at the _____. Another plane hit the _____ in _____. A fourth plane, Flight 93, which is thought to have been heading for the _____ or the _____, was diverted by _____ and eventually crashed into an _____ in _____. The 9/11 attacks were the deadliest attacks on The USA since the surprise attack at _____ 60 years before. They occurred in the country's _____ on a _____. Millions of Americans saw the events precisely as _____.