**Response to 9/11**

**U.S. Reaction**

* Americans tried to bolster the rescue effort in any way they could; Cities and towns sent firefighters and EMTs to Ground Zero.
* **Ground Zero-** The designated name referring to the area in New York that was the World Trade Center and the surrounding buildings that leveled to the ground on 9/11.
* Lines to donate blood at Red Cross offices and other blood banks were incredibly long and new and established charities raised money for the victims and rescue workers.
* But for some Americans, their grief manifested itself as anger and frustration, and they looked for someone to blame for the attacks.
* Sadly, some anger erupted into attacks on people of Arab and Muslim descent, with nearly 600 incidents in the first 10 days after the attacks.
* Meanwhile, President George Bush was able to win a broad mandate to act in the nation’s defense.
* In a speech on September 20, he asked citizens to be “calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat” and promised that the United States would triumph over terrorism.
* After the United States began military operations in Afghanistan in October, the president’s approval rating soared to 90 percent.

**International Reaction**

* Citizens of 78 countries died in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania on September 11, and people around the world mourned lost friends and neighbors.
* They held candlelight vigils, donated money and goods to the Red Cross and other rescue and relief organizations and flowers piled up in front of American embassies.
* Even leaders of countries that did not tend to get along terribly well with the American government expressed their sorrow and dismay.
* Public reaction was mixed; people in many different countries believed that 9/11 was a consequence of America’s political meddling in the Middle East and intervention in world affairs.
* Most people, even those who believed that the United States was partially or entirely responsible for its own misfortune, still expressed sorrow and anger at the deaths of innocent people.
* On September 12, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) declared that the attack on the United States was an attack on all of the member nations.
* NATO eventually sent five airplanes to help keep an eye on American airspace.
* Allies and adversaries alike urged caution, warning that an indiscriminate or disproportionate reaction could alienate Muslims around the world.
* In the end, almost 30 nations pledged military support to the United States, and many more offered other kinds of cooperation.

**USA PATRIOT ACT**

* **Who did it involve?**
* **What does the act allow the government to do?**
* **When was it passed?**
* **Is it still around today?**
* **How long does the act extend or when does it run out?**
* **What is the argument for the act?**
* **What is the argument against the act?**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

* **Who did it involve?**
* **What are the responsibilities of the Department?**
* **Who have been the Secretaries of Homeland Security (Heads of the Department)?**
* **When was it created?**
* **Is it still around today?**
* **How long does the funding last for the Department?**
* **What is the argument for the Department?**
* **What is the argument against the Department?**

**9/11 COMMISSION**

* **Who did it involve?**
* **When did it take place?**
* **What was the main goal of the 9/11 Commission?**
* **What are the main conclusions that the 9/11 Commission made?**