**The Attacks on 9/11/01**

**American Airlines Flight 11- One World Trade Center**

* This was the first to take off and originated in Boston
* There were a total of 5 hijackers on the plane
* **Mohamed Atta-** Pilot hijacker of AA11 who was the leader of all hijackers and pilots
* It carried 81 passengers of the 158 total seats
* At 8:46 A.M. it struck the North Tower or One World Trade Center flying at 440 MPH

**United Airlines Flight 175- Two World Trade Center**

* This was the second flight to take off and also originated in Boston
* There were a total of 5 hijackers on the plane
* **Marwan al-Shehhi-** Pilot hijacker of UA175
* It carried 56 passengers of the 168 total seats
* At 9:03 A.M. it struck the South Tower or Two World Trade Center flying at 540 MPH

**American Airlines Flight 77- Pentagon**

* This was the third flight to take off and originated in Washington D.C.
* There were a total of 5 hijackers on the plane
* **Hani Hanjour-** Pilot hijacker of AA77
* It carried 58 passengers of the 176 total seats
* At 9:37 A.M. it struck the Pentagon at 530 MPH

**United Airlines Flight 93- Shanksville, Pennsylvania**

* This flight was delayed for 42 minutes before taking off from Newark
* This was the last flight to be hijacked and was targeting the U.S. Capitol Building
* There were a total of 4 hijackers on the plane
* **Ziad Jarrah-** Pilot hijacker of UA93
* It carried 37 passengers of the 182 total seats
* At 10:03 A.M. it struck an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania flying at 500 MPH

**Devastation At the Pentagon**

* Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the Pentagon.
* 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

**Devastation At World Trade Center**

* The initial impact of AA11and UA175on the 80th and 60th floors of the two WTC towers instantly killed hundreds of people and tapped hundreds more in higher floors
* The planes were chosen by the hijackers because they were transcontinental flights with several thousand gallons of jet fuel to create as much destruction as possible
* Around 10:00 A.M, the structural damage of the plane impact and the weakening steel from fires led to the collapse of the South WTC tower, the second tower hit on 9/11
* A half an hour later, the same causes of the collapse of the South tower led to the collapse of the North tower, the first tower hit on 9/11
* Close to 3,000 people died in the World Trade center and its vicinity on 9/11
* 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers struggling evacuate the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.
* Only six people in the World Trade Center towers at the time of their collapse survived
* Almost 10,000 others were treated for injuries, many severe.

**Passenger Assault on UA93**

* Because of the late departure and hijacking, passengers on board were able to call loved ones and heard about the attacks in New York and Washington
* This led them to believe that the hijackers were not going to land the plane and that the bombs they were carrying were probably fake
* The passengers then decided to plan a sustained passenger assault on the hijackers to take back the plane, which they put into action
* One of the passengers, Thomas Burnett Jr., told his wife over the phone that “I know we’re all going to die. There’s three of us who are going to do something about it. I love you, honey.”
* Another passenger, Todd Beamer, was heard saying “Are you guys ready? Let’s roll” over an open line.
* Sandy Bradshaw, a flight attendant, called her husband and explained that she had slipped into a galley and was filling pitchers with boiling water.
* The hijackers, being taken over by passengers, decided to fly the plane into the ground killing all 45 people aboard.

**Reaction and Who Did It**

* At 7 p.m., President George W. Bush delivered a televised address declaring:
* “Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America.
* "These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”
* In a reference to the eventual U.S. military response he declared, “We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.”
* In the following weeks, the government would report on the 19 hijackers and the masterminds of the attacks, including putting the blame on Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda terrorist network.
* **Khalid Sheikh Mohammed-** The mastermind and head planner of the attacks on 9/11 who was arrested in 2003, detained in Guantanamo Bay prison, and confessed to planning the attacks.