

# America's Response to Terrorism

Running Time: 10:26

VHS Tape 6, Begins 36:54

DVD 1, Video 34

## Objectives

After viewing "America Responds to Terrorism," students should

- Know how September 11, 2001, affected New York, the country, and the world.
- Realize the enormous complexity of organizing a big city's response to a major terrorist attack.
- Appreciate the contributions and sacrifices that people made to rebuild a nation's faith in its way of life.

## Summary

September 11, 2001, in New York City began as a normal day. But, a new group of American heroes emerged when terrorists struck the World Trade Center. Rescue

operations went on around the clock, and people put aside differences to rally in defense of the country's core values. Every U.S. city and every nation of the world was reminded of its vulnerability to terrorism.

## Focus

The opening footage and music in the introduction to Chapter 34 suggest normal, everyday routines. But the visuals of destruction that follow remind students of the sudden, horrific attack and of the fragility of life. Reactions from firefighters and government leaders help students understand how the events of a single day changed a nation's perspective. The

video also stresses factual, strategic aspects of the war on terrorism. The closing shot of New York's skyline on the six-month anniversary of the attack—with two spires of light where the twin towers had stood—will help students appreciate the resilience of the American spirit.



## Activities

- Have students respond to the question that ends the video—**How did 9/11 change U.S. relationships with other countries around the world?**
- Have students refer to the Viewer's Guide and discuss possible answers to each question.
- Break the class into small groups. Have each group interview a variety of people about their reactions to September 11—for example, a security guard, a person older than 60, a student from another country (perhaps via e-mail), a journalist, a political leader. Have each group create a presentation that suggests the breadth of the responses to terrorism.
- Divide the class into five groups. Have each group research a major terrorist organization and create a map and activity summary. Then have the groups work together to create a time line.

## Viewer's Guide Answers

1. Unlike identifiable people or groups that carry out violent acts, America's attackers were unidentified individuals on suicide missions.
2. There was an expression of solidarity against terrorism.
3. They can be more careful and security conscious; try to be better citizens, neighbors, family members; and volunteer to serve their community or the country.
4. McCain said that if people remain afraid and withdraw, then the terrorists will have won. Schumer praised New Yorkers for their courage and unity.