



The U.S. & The World SS.7.CG.4.4
The Significance of September 11th, 2001
VIDEO SCRIPT



BENCHMARK CLARIFICATION SIX: FLIGHT 93

1. Sometimes, as part of the common good, we have to make decisions that can have a huge impact on not only ourselves but many others. Let's learn about one of those times, that happened on the impactful day of September 11th, 2001.
2. After watching this video, you will be able to:
 - ◆ Explain how the heroic actions of passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 reflect the principles of liberty and the responsibilities of citizenship.
3. At 8:42 AM on September 11th, 2001, **United Airlines Flight 93**, a Boeing 757 with 44 people onboard, took off from Newark International Airport, heading to San Francisco.
4. At 9:28 AM it was hijacked by **al Qaeda** terrorists. These terrorists supported an extreme form of Islam and sought to force the United States and Israel to leave the Middle East. Al-Qaeda had previously attacked the United States with a truck bomb in 1993. It went off at the World Trade Center, killing 6 and injuring thousands.
5. By the time of the hijacking, the passengers on Flight 93 were aware of what happened at the **Twin Towers** in New York City with the other hijacked aircraft. The other planes that had been seized by al Qaeda had crashed into the two giant towers at the World Trade Center, and soon another would crash into the Pentagon. So they had a decision to make: do they try to fight and take back the plane or do they sit and hope that this hijacking will not be the same as the others?
6. **Democratic principles** are foundational to our beliefs as Americans and our responsibilities as citizens. The actions of the passengers of Flight 93 reflect our deep commitment to the principles of liberty and the responsibilities of citizenship, even in the most dire of circumstances. Sometimes it's said that our character comes out the best when the situation is the worst. After all, it's easy to stick to our principles and values when we don't have to make a tough decision. But these passengers would indeed practice those democratic values so important to us all.
7. Before acting, the passengers took a vote, agreeing to work together to take on a huge and terrifying task: trying to take back the plane. They trusted that their fellow citizens on this flight would support each other in the effort to take back the plane. Knowing that the liberties and the very lives of other Americans were at stake, some of them reached out to their

families and other people on the ground by phone. They warned them, the best that they could, what was happening and what they were going to do.

8. They demonstrated an important sense of **patriotism** and love of both their country and their fellow citizens. They understood the importance of the common good. As one of the passengers, Todd Beamer, told his fellow passengers, 'Let's roll.', they moved together to make a difference.
9. Most importantly, they never stopped fighting in their effort to defend the values and principles threatened by the terrorists. Experts believe that the terrorists were planning on crashing into the **U.S. Capitol Building**.
10. Instead, the plane crashed in an open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania while the passengers and terrorists fought for control. Through their action, the passengers of Flight 93 saved countless lives and as well as one of the most important symbols of our nation.
11. They showed their devotion to the principles of liberty and the responsibilities of citizenship and the common good and reflected the best of the American spirit.
12. These heroic passengers on Flight 93 lived the principles of liberty and good citizenship, and they valued the common good. They serve as role models for us all.
13. VISIT THE NATIONAL 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
<https://www.911memorial.org/visit/museum>
Or the FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL
<https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>