

# 9/11 MEMORIAL

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UNIT: Mourning, Memorializing, and Meaning-Making of 9/11

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GRADE LEVEL/S: 6-8

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TIME NEEDED: 2 sessions

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TEACHER: Adele Goldfinger Black

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## LESSON TITLE: THE MYSTICAL POWERS OF THE JAPANESE CRANE

### Common Core Standards

**R 1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**R 2** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

**SL 4** Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

### Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

Why has the Japanese crane become an international symbol of peace?

Why have nations, groups, and individuals come to recognize and accept art as a means of memorializing people and events?

### Lesson Goals/ Objectives

Students will be able to explain the significance and symbolism of the Japanese crane.

Students will be able to connect the Japanese crane to the aftermath of 9/11.

Students will be able to explain how origami emerged as a cultural art and has been used to create international symbols of peace.

### Key Terms

Atomic bomb\*, Hiroshima\*\*, Origami\*\*\*, Radiation sickness#, Senbazura##

\* A bomb, developed during World War II, whose explosive force comes from a chain reaction based on nuclear fission in uranium 235 or plutonium.

\*\* A city in southwest Japan largely destroyed on August 6, 1945 by the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare. Dropped by the United States, the bomb killed over 75,000 of the city's inhabitants.

\*\*\* The traditional Japanese art or technique of folding paper into a variety of decorative or representational forms.

# Sickness caused by exposure to radiation.

## Japanese word for a thousand cranes.

**Materials**

Eleanor Coerr, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. (Puffin Books, 1977).  
A Thousand Crane Quilt: [www.911memorial.org/tribute/thousand-crane-quilt](http://www.911memorial.org/tribute/thousand-crane-quilt)  
Sadako Sasaki biography:  
[www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/frame/kids\\_e/sadako\\_e/index.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/frame/kids_e/sadako_e/index.html)  
Lady Liberty: <http://ladyliberty.national911memorial.org/#/Explore/1/1>  
Other photos of 1000 Cranes and 9/11

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**Background  
for lesson**

24 Japanese were killed on 9/11.

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**Instructional  
Activity/  
Procedures**

1. Introduce students to the legend of the origami crane:
    - Associated with healing qualities
    - Mythical belief that it lives 1000 years
    - Those who make 1000 paper cranes will be granted one wish
    - *Senbazura* (Japanese for Thousand Cranes) symbolizes world peace
  2. Pre-reading activity: Introduce students to the bombing of Hiroshima at the conclusion of World War II.
    - *Why did the United States drop the atomic bomb?*
    - *What were the health effects in the aftermath of the bombing?* Read about radiation sickness or ask the school nurse or a science teacher for more information.
  3. Read Sadako and the Thousand Cranes and discuss the story.
    - *Why do you think Sadako became a representative of all the children affected by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima?*
    - *What does it take to be a heroine?*
    - View the Sadako Monument at the Hiroshima Peace Park:  
[www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/frame/kids\\_e/sadako\\_e/index.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/frame/kids_e/sadako_e/index.html)
  4. View images of the Thousand Crane Quilt on the 9/11 Memorial website, as well as other pictures of paper cranes sent to New York City (in the aftermath of 9/11 as well as years later).
  5. Discuss with students:
    - *Why is quilting a “communal” activity?*
    - *Why do you think the symbol of the crane was used in the context of 9/11?*
    - *How did the Thousand Crane Quilt “make a difference”?*
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**Evidence of Understanding**

Students' responses during the class discussion will demonstrate an understanding of the international symbolism of the "peace crane" and the role of art in memorialization.

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**Extension Activities**

Learn how to make paper cranes using the art of origami.

Hold a fundraiser to "sponsor" a paper crane. Strive to make/sell a thousand cranes and donate the money to the 9/11 Memorial or use the funds for projects in your community. Display the thousand cranes in your school.

Choose one quote from the story Sadako and the Thousand Cranes. Explain why this quote is important.