

# 9/11 MEMORIAL

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UNIT: The Aftermath: Humanitarian, Charitable, and Volunteer Support

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GRADE LEVEL/S: K-2

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TIME NEEDED: 1-2 sessions

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TEACHER: Dena Ann Drobish

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## LESSON TITLE: TEDDY BEARS

### Common Core Standards

**R 7** Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

**SL 6** Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

### Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

How can objects provide comfort and support to individuals?

### Lesson Goals/ Objectives

Students will be able to describe a favorite object (toy/stuffed animal).

Students will be able to explain the feelings associated with a favorite object.

Students will be able to explain how an object provided comfort to first responders.

### Key Terms

Empathy, Sympathy

### Materials

9/11 FAQ: [www.911memorial.org/faqabout911](http://www.911memorial.org/faqabout911)

Images of teddy bears and notes, see [Appendix A](#).

Additional information and websites:

[www.thirteen.org/metrofocus/2011/09/my-911-teddy-bears-the-unofficial-symbol-of-911/](http://www.thirteen.org/metrofocus/2011/09/my-911-teddy-bears-the-unofficial-symbol-of-911/)

<http://fallenbrothers.com/community/showthread.php?t=1436>

[www.nytimes.com/2004/04/28/nyregion/28trinity.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/28/nyregion/28trinity.html)

[www.socialwelfarehistory.com/recollections/the-longest-day/](http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/recollections/the-longest-day/)

**Background  
for lesson**

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, a wall was erected outside of the Pier 92 and 94 Family Assistance Center, allowing a space for relatives of the victims to post pictures, letters, etc. of their loved ones. The walls quickly became memorials.

During this time, a collection of teddy bears and stuffed animals were placed at the base of the walls (24 in total). A selection of these teddy bears were sent by residents of Oklahoma City.

Following the 1995 terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building -- which killed 168 people, including 19 children -- stuffed teddy bears, along with notes of condolence and prayer, were among the earliest items left by visitors. A group of NYC special operations firefighters under Deputy Chief Ray Downey also had traveled to Oklahoma City, developing strong bonds with their Oklahoma City counterparts and hosts.

Six years later, Ray Downey and nearly 3,000 others were killed on 9/11. The next day, a coalition of Oklahoma City residents, school children and uniformed responders decided to send some of the stuffed animals that had been left at the Memorial fence around the Murrah Building to the three specific disaster sites in New York City, at the Pentagon and in Somerset County, PA. They also sent packets of counseling materials to help those most directly impacted by the attacks.

In conjunction with television stations in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City National Memorial broadened the initiative by launching the Hope Bear Project, with bear collection sites set up around the Oklahoma City metro area. In a matter of a few days the Memorial and news stations had collected three tractor-trailer loads of stuffed toys to deliver to schools located in NYC, Arlington, VA, New Jersey and western Pennsylvania. A special load was also delivered to the newly opened Pier 94 Family Assistance Center and to Ground Zero in New York City.

Of the approximately 60,000 toys gathered in response to 9/11, about 600 bears came directly from the Oklahoma City National Memorial's Fence. The bears from the Memorial Fence all wore special neck tags relating words of hope and noting the bonds of experience between Oklahoma City and New York City. Many volunteers, including truck drivers and organizations such as the American Red Cross, assisted in the re-distribution of the bears at their final destinations. At Pier 94, the teddy bears ornamented a long corridor nicknamed "the Walk of Bears" which also featured posted "missing" person fliers, messages from families, and other forms of tributes affixed to a series of painted plywood panels.

- Courtesy of the 9/11 Memorial Museum

For images of these bears, see [Appendix A](#).

**Instructional  
Activity/  
Procedures**

1. Ask students what they do when they are sad/upset/frightened.
2. Help guide the discussion by prompting students to discuss special toys/stuffed animals they had (or might still have) when they were younger. Discuss the types of emotions attached to these items.
3. Students then draw, color, or design their own teddy bear and inscribe a positive message. Teachers can make a pattern of a teddy bear, find an image of a teddy bear, or children may draw their own teddy bear.
4. Completed teddy bears can be donated to a variety of local and national charities.

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**Evidence of  
Understanding**

Students will be assessed through class discussion, description of emotions, and drawing of teddy bear with a positive message.

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**Extension  
Activities**

Students can learn about the connection between President Theodore Roosevelt and the term teddy bear: [www.theodoreroosevelt.org/site/c.eIKSIdOWIiJ8H/b.8684621/k.6632/Real\\_Teddy\\_Bear\\_Story.htm](http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/site/c.eIKSIdOWIiJ8H/b.8684621/k.6632/Real_Teddy_Bear_Story.htm)

APPENDIX A

All images: Collection of the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Transferred by the New York City Office of Emergency Management.



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**ON AMERICAN SOIL**  
OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL

This stuffed teddy bear is an **OKLAHOMA HOPE BEAR**. When our city's federal building was bombed in April 1995, people from all across the country and around the world wanted to let us know they cared about us, and what happened here.

This teddy bear is for you. We want you to know we care.

*From Oklahoma City, with love.*

WE COME HERE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE KILLED, THOSE WHO SURVIVED AND THOSE CHANGED FOREVER. MAY ALL WHO LEAVE HERE KNOW THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE. MAY THIS MEMORIAL OFFER COMFORT, STRENGTH, PEACE, HOPE AND SERENITY.