



Words

Capitol = the building in Washington where Congress (all the Representatives and Senators) meet

collapse = to fall down quickly

depart = leave from, start from

destination = the place where someone or something is going

destroy = zerstören

flame = the hot bright burning gas that you see when something is on fire

fuel = gas or petrol that makes a motor run

headquarters = the main building that is the centre of an organization or company

hijack = to take control of a plane

intend = plan to , was going to

overcome = to defeat = überwältigen

Pentagon = a building in Washington from which the American army is controlled

September 11, 2001

On September 11, 2001 , terrorists **hijacked** 4 airplanes and crashed them into the two towers of the World Trade Centre in New York and the **Pentagon** in Washington. The fourth jet crashed in Pennsylvania. About 3,000 people were killed and part of the Pentagon was **destroyed**. It was soon found out that Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist organization Al Qaeda had been behind the attacks.

The planes left the airports on the morning of September 11. Their original **destination** was California , so they had tons of **fuel** on board. Some time after take-off , the terrorists took over the planes. Some of them had pilot training.

At 8:45 a.m. the first plane crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Centre. 20 minutes later, the second plane hit the south tower. **Flames** and smoke came out of the towers and the people who were working there tried to escape. About an hour after the attack both towers **collapsed**.

At about 9:40 a.m. a plane with 58 people on board crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, the country's military **headquarters** in Washington. A part of the building **collapsed** and about 200 people were killed.

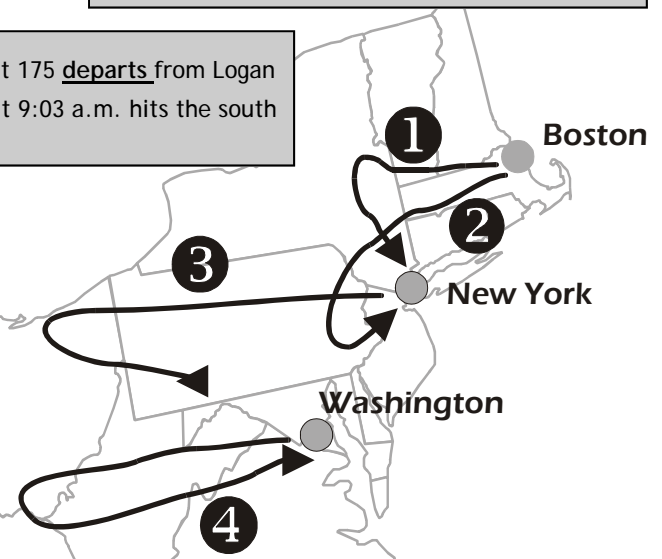
A fourth plane probably **intended** to crash into the White House or the **Capitol**, but a few passengers wanted to try to **overcome** the terrorists. The pilots lost control of the plane and it crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

① American Airline Flight 11 to Los Angeles takes off from Boston at 8. am . At 8.45 a.m. it crashes into the north tower of the WTC.

② United Airlines Flight 175 **departs** from Logan airport soon after and at 9:03 a.m. hits the south tower of the WTC.

③ United Flight 93 leaves Newark Airport in New Jersey and heads for San Francisco . Shortly after 10:00 a.m. the plane crashes in a field in southern Pennsylvania.

④ American Flight 77 **departs** from Washington at about 8:20 a.m. About one and a half hours later it crashes into the west side of the Pentagon building in Washington .





Words

air traffic = all the flights in the whole country

baggage = the bags and suitcases that someone has with him when he is travelling

business = *Geschäftsvorgänge*

cause = produce , to be the reason for ..

convince = *überzeugen*

design = plans, drawings

evacuate = everybody had to get out

FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation = the police department that is controlled by the American government

fuel = gas or petrol that makes a motor run

furniture = objects made of wood like chairs, tables, cupboards etc..

likely = probably = *wahrscheinlich*

massive = great, big

memorial = an object that reminds people of someone who has died

remain = stay

safety = *Sicherheit*

spread = expand , to get bigger

sprinkler system = machines that are used to pour water on a fire = *Löschanlage*

steel construction = *Stahlgerippe*

stock exchange = *Börse*

surround = *umgeben*

took off = start

undamaged = nothing happened to them

September 11, 2001

After the attack

After the attack on the USA, there was panic all over the country. The White House was evacuated and all air traffic over the continent was stopped. The stock exchange in New York stopped business and many tourist sights were closed down.

A month after the attack, the government gave the police and the FBI more power to hunt terrorists. New safety checks at airports were introduced and airlines started checking the baggage of their passengers more carefully.

The United States were convinced that Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorist group were behind the attacks. In October, the U.S. attacked terrorist training camps in Afghanistan .

Why the Towers Collapsed

The two Boeing 767s that took off from Boston had a lot of fuel with them because they were travelling to Los Angeles. Each jet had about 90,000 litres of fuel—about 2 tanker trucks full.

When the planes hit the towers they caused a massive fire that spread across many floors at the top of the buildings. Most likely, furniture, wood and paper in the offices began burning quickly , so that the fire could spread in a few seconds. The buildings did have an automatic sprinkler system, but this system was made to put out small fires.

The fire caused temperatures of over 1,000 °C , so that even the steel constructions in the buildings became weaker and weaker.

In the end, the top floors that remained undamaged were so heavy that the whole building collapsed. The World Trade Centre, however, withstood collapse long enough to save thousands of lives. About 99 % of the people in the lower floors could get out of the buildings before they fell.

Rebuilding Ground Zero

In the months after September 11, 2001 thousands of workers helped to clean up the place where the World Trade Centre once stood - known as Ground Zero. Many architects all over the world were called to present designs for rebuilding the site. In the future, glass towers will surround a memorial of September 11.



Words

ad = advertisement, poster ,
commercial = *Werbung*

attraction = a very famous sight that
everyone wants to see

basement = American word for
"cellar"

concrete = you get it by mixing sand,
cement, small stones and water
together = *Beton*

destroy = *zerstören*

direction = *Richtung*

elevator = a machine that takes
people from one floor of a building to
another

explosives = material that can produce
an explosion

firm stand = *fester Halt*

law firm = *Rechtsanwaltskanzlei*

luxurious = very expensive and
beautiful

parachute = to jump down with a
parachute = *Fallschirm*

popular = liked by many people

pour = flow in

solid bedrock = the rock in the ground
below the soil = *festes Gestein*

stunt = something dangerous that is
done to entertain people

surface = *Oberfläche*

target = aim = *Ziel*

tightrope = a rope high above the
ground that someone walks on

twin = *Zwillings-*

The World Trade Centre

The World Trade Centre was built by
the American architect Minoru
Yamasaki in the late 1960s and early
1970s. At their opening in 1972 they
were the world's tallest buildings.
They were over 400 metres tall and
were made of 200,000 tons of steel.
Each tower had 110 floors and 97
elevators.

Skyscrapers of this size have to be
built in solid bedrock. In New York
the solid rock starts at about 15 to 20
metres below the surface. When the
builders of the WTC started digging
they found out that after a few
metres, water from the nearby
Hudson River started pouring in. So
they dug out small boxes and put
steel and concrete into them to give
the building a firm stand.

When the World Trade Centre opened
in 1973 the project was not very
popular among New Yorkers. But as
time went on and more and more
companies started moving their
offices to the twin towers they
became more and more popular. The
two towers also became famous
through movies like "King Kong" and
"Superman".

Extreme
sportsmen
chose the
WTC as the
place to try
out many
stunts.
Skydivers
parachuted
from the top
of the
towers,
climbers
went up to

the top on the outside walls and a
French acrobat walked from one
tower to the other on a tightrope.
Within a few years the towers were
on postcards, T-shirts and ads.

The World Trade Centre also gave the
New Yorkers another tourist
attraction. On a clear day it was
possible to see over 60 km in all
directions. Visitors could travel up
to the top of the North tower and
eat in a luxurious restaurant called
"Windows of the World".

The Twin Towers were like a small
city. Over 500 companies, including
banks, law firms, television stations
and airlines had their offices here and
50,000 people worked in the two
buildings every day. On a typical day
as many as 200,000 visitors from all
over the world passed through the
buildings.

In 1993 the World Trade Centre was
the target of an earlier terrorist
attack. A truck with 600 kg of
explosives drove into the basement
garage of the building. When it
exploded, a few stories were
completely destroyed, but only 6
people were killed.





Words

according = laut , nach

although = obwohl

arrest = capture , catch = *festnehmen*

billionaire = someone who has more than one billion dollars or Euros etc.. = *Milliardär*

charge = to blame = *beschuldigen, anklagen*

construction company = a firm that builds houses, buildings, bridges etc..

embassy = a group of people who represent their country in the building of a foreign country = *Botschaft*

engineering = jobs that have to do with building roads, bridges , machines etc..

expand = make bigger

found = to start something like a company or an organization

in charge = in control

influence = power = *Einfluss*

invasion = the army of one country enters another country

law = the rules of a country or religion

leading = number one

local = everything that is in a small area or place

network = system, group

on its own = by itself

opponent = enemy, rival

protect = *schützen*

rank = to be in a position or place

run = govern, control

supporter = *Unterstützer*

thought to be = many people think that ...

unwise = not wise, foolish, stupid

September 11, 2001

Osama Bin Laden

Osama Bin Laden is thought to be the world's leading terrorist and the person in charge of the September 11 attacks on America.

Bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia in 1957. His father, Mohammed, founded a construction company and became a billionaire. The company grew very famous and rebuilt mosques all over the world , including Mecca and Medina.

Osama was the 17th son, and within his family he ranked low. He studied engineering in Jeddah.

In the middle of the 1980s bin Laden went to Afghanistan to help the mujahideen, who were Muslims that fought against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He collected a lot of money for this group. At the end of the 1980s , Bin Laden founded Al-Qaeda.

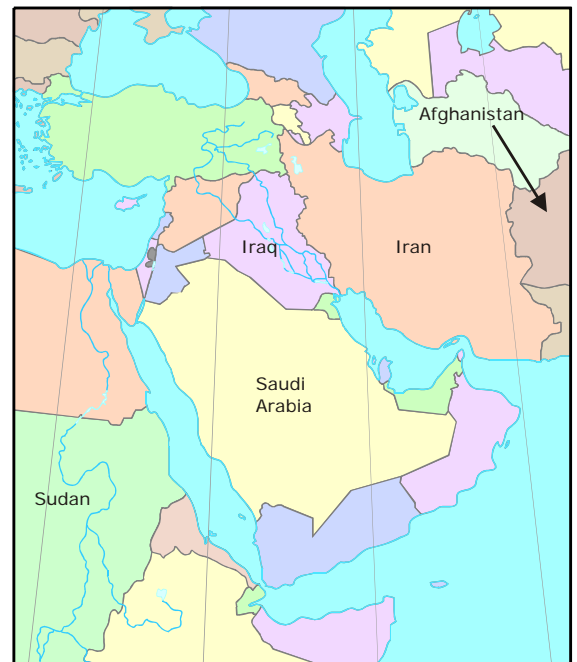
When the United States sent soldiers to Saudi Arabia in 1991 to throw Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait, Osama Bin Laden became an opponent of the Saudi government. He thought it was unwise to let Americans expand their influence in Muslim countries.

Bin Laden was thrown out of Saudi Arabia because of his

terrorist activities. He went to Sudan for a few years and then to Afghanistan , where he was protected by the Taliban government.

He has been charged with many terrorist attacks in the past 15 years. In the worst attack, the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed in 1998 – 200 people were killed.

After almost ten years of intensive searching, bin Laden was found in a private house in Pakistan. On May 2, 2011 bin Laden was shot by American soldiers in a secret mission .



Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is a network of extremists organized by Osama Bin Laden. It was founded in the 1980s and Bin Laden has become the main financial supporter.

Al-Qaeda thinks that all Westerners should be thrown out of Islamic states and that countries that do not follow Islamic law are bad. According to its founder, all Muslims around the world should fight a holy war against the United States and Israel. Al-Qaeda probably has contact with terrorist groups all over the world.

Although Osama Bin Laden is the leader and founder of the group , it is not run by him alone. Al-Qaeda does not have a central structure . It is a network of local groups in different countries who don't know each other. Each group operates on its own and if one group is arrested it does not know anything about the others.



September 11, 2001

True or false ?

| | T | F |
|---|---|---|
| The fourth plane probably was planning to hit the White House or the Capitol in Washington. | | |
| The World Trade Centre collapsed when the first plane hit the building. | | |
| The two planes that hit the twin towers took off from Washington. | | |
| After the attacks all air traffic over the USA and Canada was stopped. | | |
| Many shops closed and only the tourist sights remained open. | | |
| In October, the USA attacked terrorist training camps in Saudi Arabia. | | |
| All of the planes were full with fuel . | | |
| The place where the World Trade Centre once stood is called Ground Zero. | | |
| Architects plan to rebuild the twin towers exactly as they were before the attack. | | |

Answer the following questions

Why did the towers collapse ? _____

Why didn't the sprinkler system work ? _____

Who was behind the attacks ? _____

What happened at airports after the attacks ? _____

Why didn't the fourth plane reach its destination ? _____

Which building was hit in Washington ? _____



September 11, 2001

Complete the text on the World Trade Centre by filling in the words from the box !

The World Trade Centre was the world's tallest _____ when it opened in 1972. The _____ were built by the American _____ Yamasaki in the late 1960s. Each tower was made with 200,000 tons of _____ .

Tall buildings have to be built in _____ , but when building the WTC, construction workers found out that water from the _____ Hudson River was pouring in. They had to make boxes out of _____ so that the towers would stand firmly.

At first the buildings were not very _____ among the people of New York. Things changed when more and more _____ started to move in . The towers also became famous through _____ like "King Kong" and "Superman" .

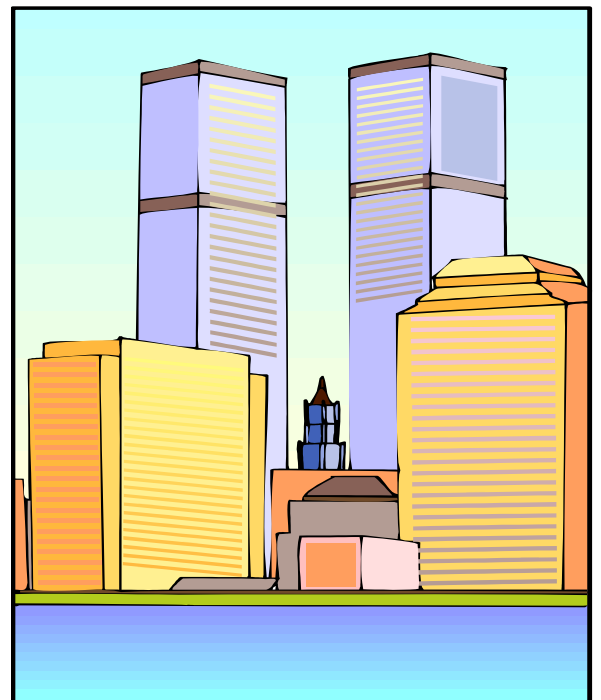
Athletes and stuntmen chose the WTC as the place to do crazy things. A French _____ even walked between the two towers on a _____ .

Tourists could ride up to the top on one of the 97 _____ and on clear days could see up to 60 km in all _____ . At the top, there was a _____ called "Windows of the World" .

About 50,000 people worked in the twin towers every day. Banks, law firms and _____ stations had their offices here.

In 1993 the World Trade Centre became the _____ of a terrorist attack. A truck full of _____ drove into the _____ garages of the WTC. But, only 6 people were killed in the explosion.

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| acrobat | films |
| architect | nearby |
| basement | popular |
| bedrock | restaurant |
| building | skyscrapers |
| companies | steel |
| concrete | target |
| directions | television |
| elevators | tightrope |
| explosives | |





September 11, 2001

Answer the following questions !

Describe Osama Bin Laden's family background : _____

What did he study ? _____

Who were the "mujahideen" ? _____

When did bin Laden found the Al-Qaeda group ? _____

Why did bin Laden become an enemy of his home country ? _____

Why was he thrown out of Saudi Arabia ? _____

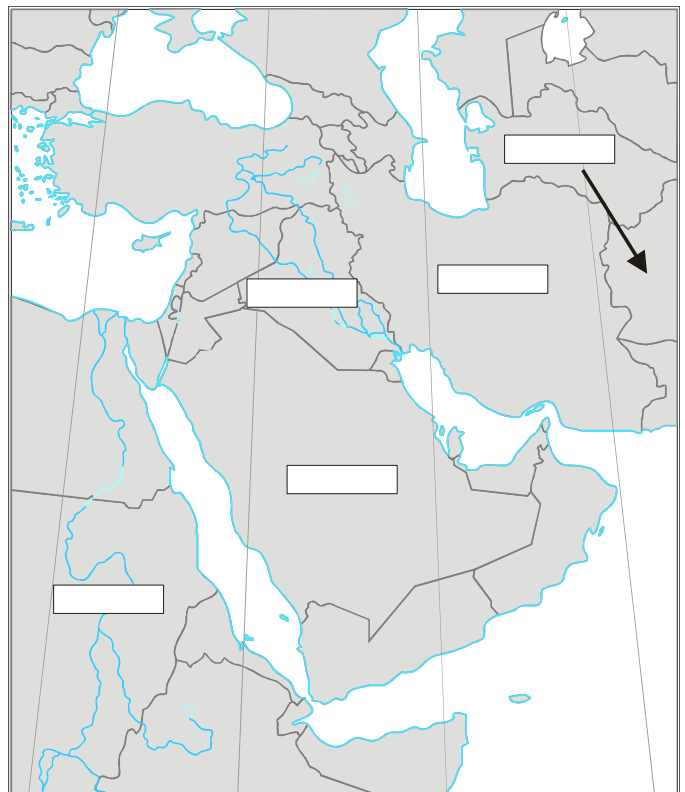
Where did he go to and who protected him ? _____

What other attacks has he been charged with ? _____

What is Al-Qaeda's aim ? _____

What kind of structure does the group have ? _____

Put the names of the countries into boxes of the map on the right.





September 11, 2001

Crossword

Across

1. very expensive and beautiful
5. the name of the place where the World Trade Centre once stood (two words)
7. material that you get by mixing cement, sand, stones and water
9. a house that belongs to a foreign country - a group of people represent this country in the house.
11. to take control of an airplane
12. to capture or catch a criminal
13. gas or petrol that makes a motor run
15. country that Osama bin Laden fled to
16. an object that reminds people of someone who has died

Down

2. something dangerous that is done to entertain people
3. building in Washington from which the American army is controlled
4. to start an organization or a company
6. the place where someone or something is going
7. to fall down quickly
8. to get everybody out of a house or building
10. objects that you have in your house and that are made mostly of wood - like tables or chairs
14. everything that is in a small area

