September 11, 2001 will forever be a sad day in the history of the United States. The terrorist attacks that knocked down the Twin Towers, crashed a plane in Pennsylvania, and plunged a plane into the Pentagon killed thousands of people.

In the hours following the attacks, people became glued to the television for information, hoped for survivors, and contacted friends and family. Many turned to their faith and came together in churches and synagogues to pray. Many people close to the locations of the attacks volunteered to help out. In some cases, those from far away came, too. Fundraisers began across the nation to raise money to help the victims' families.

In the months following the attacks, many funerals were held to mourn individuals who lost their lives in the attacks. On the 6th month anniversary, two bright lights pierced through the New York City sky to mark the fallen twin towers of the World Trade Center. This event was called the "Tribute in Light." Of course, on national television, the entire country could watch the special ceremony as the first anniversary was remembered at the site of Ground Zero.

As time passed, individuals came together in many communities for special memorials. What is a memorial? A memorial is anything meant to help people remember a person or event. Many such memorials have been created in the tri-state area. The tri-state area is considered New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. New York City is a major commercial area. While many of the victims lived in the actual city, many others actually lived in the suburbs, or outskirts, of the city in the tri-state area. Some of the people who lost their lives were policemen, firemen, financial workers, and other business people who lived in the towns surrounding New York City and commuted, or traveled between work and home, each day. Many of the victims' hometowns have struggled with the best way to honor their residents.

Many local schools share a moment of silence with all the children to mark the actual anniversary each year. Some include the ringing of school bells as well. Counselors are available to speak with students and staff members on this day. Some schools also lower the flag. Many churches and synagogues hold special memorial gatherings each September 11th. Some communities, like the town of Orangetown, hold a candlelight vigil at the town hall.

Some memorials are available year-round in a more permanent way. One firehouse in Rockland County was rededicated to Greg Sikorsky, a firefighter who lost his life at the World Trade Center. At Ardsley High School, some creative students painted a mural of red, white, and blue. It contained many drawings and many messages from students who wished to express their feelings. Many schools planted trees and gardens to remember those who died as well.

In Ramapo, New York, the town dedicated a "Walk of Remembrance" at their park to remember town residents who were killed September 11, 2001. Each family picked a tree to be planted for their lost relative.

Sculpture memorials have touched some communities. A famous sculptor from Tribeca named Bryan Hunt used steel recovered from the World Trade Center site to create the memorials. These memorials were then made available to victims' families to give them something with weight with which to remember.

At the Haverstraw Bay Park along the Hudson River, a living memorial called Patriot Garden was created. There are numerous trees and flowers to create a palette of colors across the seasons. It is a symbol of the cycle of life. There are daffodils, phlox, lilacs, and English lavender. There are weeping cherry trees and Japanese maple trees, too. Next to the garden, there is a memorial area. A walkway displays time and events from September 11, 2001. There is a 20-foot beam from Tower Two that is on a base in the shape of Ground Zero. A corner wall randomly displays the names of victims from the area.

At the town hall in Haverstraw, New York, a memorial also commemorates those who died. It is made of black marble in the middle and two slabs of polished stone on the sides. It reads "The Price of Freedom" across the top and "So that we will never forget" across the bottom. The images of one local policeman and two local
Memorials marking September 11th are only held in New York City.

A. False
B. True

2. Which is NOT considered part of the tri-state area?
   A. Connecticut
   B. New York
   C. New Jersey
   D. Washington

3. All victims of the September 11th attacks lived in New York City.
   A. True
   B. False

4. Which September 11th memorial involves two bright lights in the New York City sky?
   A. Tribute in Light
   B. Patriot Garden
   C. Walk of Remembrance
   D. Candlelight Vigil in Orangetown

5. Which word best describes anything meant to help people remember a person or event?
   A. memorial
   B. study guide
   C. scrapbook
   D. commute

6. Which memorial specifically tells the tale of the airline victims of 9-11-01?
   A. Patriot Garden
   B. Kristy Jackson's song
   C. Walk of Remembrance
   D. Sculpture memorial

How do you think you would feel if you had the chance to visit Ground Zero?
Have you ever been to a memorial for a loved one?