



What Were the Twin Towers?

Jim O'Connor , Ted Hammond (Illustrations)

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Discover the true story of the Twin Towers—how they came to be the tallest buildings in the world and why they were destroyed.

When the Twin Towers were built in 1973, they were billed as an architectural wonder. At 1,368 feet, they clocked in as the tallest buildings in the world and changed the New York City skyline dramatically. Offices and corporations moved into the towers—also known as the World Trade Center—and the buildings were seen as the economic hub of the world. But on September 11, 2001, a terrorist attack toppled the towers and changed our nation forever. Discover the whole story of the Twin Towers—from their ambitious construction to their tragic end.

What Were the Twin Towers? Details

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From Reader Review What Were the Twin Towers? for online ebook

Lorenzo Costanza says

This story is about the Twin Towers and how they got destroyed on September 11, 2001. The book describes the history and the events of the attack. It goes on to talk about how Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden and how they carried out their vicious attack on 9/11. Osama bin Laden had told a group of terrorist attackers to target the twin towers with a plane from American Airlines. The 2 terrorist attackers went to the airport and hijacked a plane with approximately 92 passengers. They were flying for about 45 minutes before the hijackers flew right into the twin towers sadly killing everybody who was on board. I would recommend this book to 5th graders and up because it is written in simple language and answered questions I had while reading. I would rate this book a 5 star because it has pages with just pictures to help understand the book more and it had so much good information about the twin towers and 9/11.

Gunnar E says

It was sad but interesting.

Don says

I would have given it at least a 3 star rating were it not for the flat out lies on Page 61. "Peaceful and loving"? Horse Hockey!!

Jordyn Pounders says

Starting with the attack of the World Trade Centers, this book describes why they were a target in the first place. It goes on to talk about who built them and why, and the struggles in took to get them up and also the amount of money it took to build them. It also tells the stories of the daredevils that decided to walk between them on a tightrope! It then goes on to explain the attack and why it happened, explaining what terrorist were and the architecture that caused the towers to fall.

I enjoyed reading this book and learning some things about the towers that I never truly understood, it was interesting to learn the fact.

I would use this book to teach about 9/11 and the attacks that day.

Tiffany says

Read this book to my third and fourth graders and they learned a lot. It made them think and come up with

questions about the Twin Towers. It gives a great history of the towers being built and tells the story of the memorial that is in their place today. Very good read!

Tayden Christians says

It was a very good book If you like the twin towers. I like how they in memory of the twin towers put up a museum with pieces of metal and bent steel.this book really let me in on how big of a deal the twin towers were. I always knew about the a little but not this much. I've always been really interested in things like this. So maybe I will look more into it. I really liked this book and I think that if your interested in reading you should definitely read it.

Kaleb Harding says

I read What Were The Twin Towers by Jim O'Conner. They were built on August 26, 1966. In 1993 they were attacked by a bombers in a white van in the parking garage. That is when they knew they needed better security. On September 11, 2001 they were attacked again, but far worse.Everybody was in sorrow. This time two planes crashed into the towers. At first people had thought it was an accident but when the second hit they knew it was no accident. There were two more planes one headed for the pentagon which hit the other we believe was going hit the White House.

I liked this book a lot and I would read it again but I need to focus on other books. I love history so I knew allot of this but allot of people know about this. I loved how people would use them as a way to be dangerous like dare devils.

I would recommend this book to people who love history. or that would want to learn more about this book.

Kellan Francis says

The twin towers are one of the tallest buildings in New York and what happened on September 11 2001.What was crazy is that when the attack happened the hijackers did to on all four crashes.One of the crashes hit the twin towers then another one hit the pentagon then another one hit pennsylvaina and the last one hit Washington D.C.It was very sad how it happened that day.

Nancy says

Good information about the building of the towers and their destruction. The author's description of the Islam religion being peaceful was a mistake that made me wonder how much else in the story was false. He also said there were unheeded warning signs of the attack by government agencies and even the president. That was disturbing.

Marion Kim says

This is a great nonfiction book about the Twin Towers and why 9/11 marks on our calendar as a significant date in our country. This is written for a 3rd-4th graders. This book is about how the Twin Towers were built, what happened on 9/11, introduces to the term terrorist, and the Memorial Museum. This would be a great addition to the class library.

Sarah says

I read this with a small group of students who were not even born when the attacks of 9/11 happened. This book spiked an interest in them that I have not seen in a group of reluctant readers. From the facts about the construction of the buildings to the strange facts (like the daredevils) to the facts of the day of the attacks, this text sparked some really great discussion. It also brought up some intense emotions in me as I relived that day in my mind.

Sunah Chung says

The nonfiction children's book, What Were the Twin Towers?, does not mainly focus on 9/11 attacks. The book introduces general information of the Twin Towers about the background history of the construction of the building. It includes the original purpose of the building establishment, designing and construction processes with the discipline-specific words, the 9/11 attacks, and the current memorial buildings for the victims.

The structure of the contents are organized chronologically, and contents are clustered as chapters. The expository texts convey information and explain the facts and evidences on events and the objects, in this case the Twin Towers. At the end of the page, timeline of the Twin Towers and the worlds are demonstrated, and bibliography of the contents are encompassed. I appreciate that the author tries to make a balanced perspectives to the facts and information on the Twin Towers. The comments of Muslims and miscommunications of officers or governments about the attacks must be sensitive issues in America. When it comes to the illustrations of the book, it also contains multiple characters with different ethnic origins. The author's efforts to avoid having a bias perspectives convinced me to read other books of the author.

Moop says

This was a great book on the history of the twin towers from the idea to build them to their terrible collapse. Lots of technical things in the book that describe how all the important decisions were made about the start and memory of the building. May be a little tough for a third grader to understand could be used for 4th or 5th graders.

Natalie says

I thought the book would mainly focus on 9/11 but the author gave a nice history of the Twin Towers that I quite enjoyed.

*Tycoon David Rockefeller wanted Lower Manhattan to turn into a business hub and lively neighborhood. He had a plan to create some massive buildings and got NYC Port Authority behind him.

*Getting the Port Authority involved was a sneaky move because they could use "eminent domain" to push out other businesses and take the land. (Reading between the lines of a kid's book, I bet there was quite a bit of justified drama involved. I'm not a fan of eminent domain.)

*They held a contest to design the towers. There had to be at least 10 million square feet of space to rent and over 100 floors in each tower. A Japanese-American, Minoru Yamasaki, won.

*The guy in charge was Guy F. Tozzoli. He said:

Yama, President Kennedy is going to put a man on the moon. You're going to figure out a way to build me the tallest buildings in the world."

*Construction began on March 21, 1966.

*First thing built were the "slurry walls" which basically created a bathtub of sorts around the towers so that the Hudson River couldn't flow in. This was pretty impressive to me. The trenches were 65-feet deep and took 14 months to complete.

*Official opening day is in 1973. Tenants had been slowly moving in since 1970 and were already up and running.

*In 1977, George Willig climbed the outside of the towers and was arrested when he got to the top. The mayor of NYC fined him \$1.10. One penny for each floor of the Tower.

*So much mail came through that the Towers had their own zipcode: 10048.

The author concluded with a thoughtful, child-friendly look at 9/11 and described the memorial found there now. I haven't had a chance to visit the completed memorial and museum but reading this book made me want to head back to NYC and show my respect to those who lost their lives.

Rebecca says

"No day shall erase you from the memory of time." - Virgil

Such a fitting quote, etched beautifully into the wall within the private "Reflection Room" of the Memorial Museum in New York City, for the family and friends of those who lost their lives amidst the rubble of 9/11 to reflect upon.

The events surrounding September 11, 2001 are skillfully recorded in this children's book by Jim O'Connor; beginning with the history of the area itself, the grand construction design of the Twin Towers, and

eventually a description of their historic destruction by radical terrorists. The author records the most important details in a manner through which any reader could appreciate and any American could commemorate.
