



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding International Terrorism: al- Qaeda and ISIS

### Activity 1: Understanding Terrorism, FTO's and Strategies of Terrorism

**Directions:** Answer the following questions.

1. What do you think makes an organization a terrorist group, provide at least two examples or characteristics?

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2. Based on the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab's definition of terrorism, how would you define it now?

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#### Case Study 1:

Title:

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Is this an example of terrorism? Why or why not?

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How did the perpetrator carry out the attack, what tactics did they use?

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Who/what group was the perpetrator?

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#### Case Study 2:

Title:

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Is this an example of terrorism? Why or why not?

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How did the perpetrator carry out the attack, what tactics did they use?

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Who/what group was the perpetrator?

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### **Activity 2: Geographic Hotspots of Foreign Terrorist Organizations al-Qaeda and ISIS**

**Directions:** Research an assigned region (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Kenya, Burkino Faso, Mali, Niger, Syria, Yemen, and Nigeria) to learn more about the activity associated with ISIS and al-Qaeda in that region.

1. What evidence shows that al-Qaeda, ISIS, or their affiliates are active in your assigned region?

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2. What local factors might be enabling terrorist activity in this region?

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3. Besides al-Qaeda and ISIS, are there any other extremist or terrorist groups operating in this area? If so, how are they similar to or different from al-Qaeda and ISIS?

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4. What are the core ideologies and goals of the terrorist groups in this region?

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Notes from discussion

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### Activity 3: The Significance of the Oklahoma City Bombing

**Directions:** Complete the chart below in preparation for your CELL Exhibit tour.

	al- Qaeda	ISIS
<b>What I know</b> about why they perpetrate terrorist attacks...		
<b>What I want to know</b> about why they perpetrate terrorist attacks...		
<b>What I know</b> about the ideologies and why they drive these terrorist groups.		
<b>What I want to know</b> about the ideologies and why they drive these terrorist groups.		
<b>Additional questions I have ...</b>		

### Activity 4: Understanding the Impacts of Terrorism

**Directions:** Review the provided excerpts from the primary sources. As you read or view them, identify and list the impacts of terrorist attacks in the Venn Diagram. Focus on recognizing both the similarities and differences across the three categories.

#### Individual Impacts

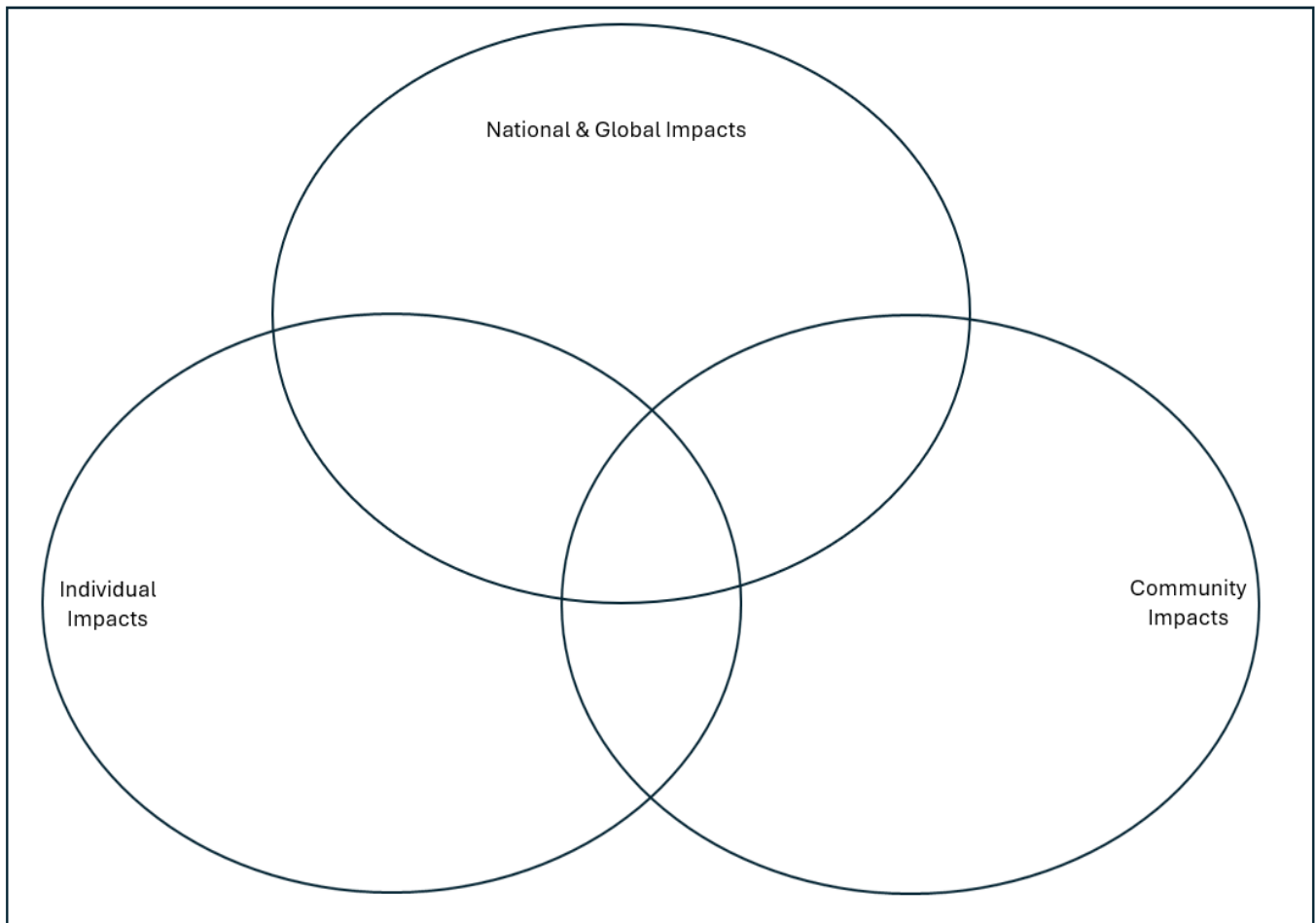
- How do victims and their families suffer?
- Primary Resource: [Ted Talk Gill Hicks](#)

#### Community Impacts

- How is a local society/community affected?
- Primary Document: [Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum Recovery: The Financial Impact of the Oklahoma City Bombing](#) (Page 2, Community Assistance)

#### National and Global Impacts

- How do governments and international organizations respond?
- Primary Document: [Joint Resolution 115 STAT. 224](#)



### Activity 5: Conclusion

**Directions:** Reflect on a question below and write or discuss your response.

1. How has your understanding of what defines a terrorist group changed after analyzing different real-world scenarios?
2. What psychological tactics do terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda use to spread fear and intimidation?
3. What similarities and differences did you notice in the strategies and tactics used by al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other extremist groups across different regions?
4. How do terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda target not just individuals, but also a community's identity, institutions, and future stability?