

Summary: Twenty-First Century Begins

The 2000 Election

On December 31, 1999, people all over the world celebrated the beginning of a new millennium. The new millennium really began on January 1, 2001. In a presidential election, the vote of individual citizens is called the popular vote. The candidate who wins the popular vote in a state wins all of that state's Electoral College votes. To win the election, you have to win the electoral vote.

The 2000 presidential election was an example of a very close popular and electoral vote. Whoever won the vote in Florida would win the election. In Florida, Bush won the first count. Gore said the votes were not counted properly. Finally, the Supreme Court said that the Florida votes would not be recounted. Bush became President.

The War on Terror

On September 11, 2001, nearly three thousand people were killed by acts of terrorism in the United States. Terrorists hijacked four airplanes. They crashed two airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City, and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

The terrorists were from a group called al-Qaeda. Their leader was Osama bin Laden. They were against the United States' involvement in the Middle East. Osama bin Laden's headquarters was in Afghanistan. In October 2001, a coalition of nations led by the United States went to war in Afghanistan. The coalition won but they did not find bin Laden. The United States also created the Department of Homeland Security in 2002 to fight terrorism.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was in power in Iraq. In March, 2003, the United States went to war in Iraq. After defeating Hussein's army and capturing Hussein, the military stayed in Iraq while a new Iraqi government formed.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

millennium *noun*, a period of 10 centuries, or 1,000 years

popular vote *noun*, the vote of individuals

Electoral College *noun*, representatives, called electors, from each state who vote for the President and Vice President

terrorism *noun*, the use of violence against ordinary people to achieve a political goal



After You Read

REVIEW What is the difference between the popular vote and the electoral vote? Circle the words that tell what a popular vote is. Highlight the words that tell what the votes in the Electoral College are. Underline the words that explain how a presidential election is won.

REVIEW How did the United States respond to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001? Circle three sentences that tell you the answer.