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English 15 Section 08

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The Year of 1993

When asked to think of an important year in American history, they year 1993 usually does not come to mind. 1993 usually goes forgotten but it was a very important year in our history that helped make the present what it is today. 1993 was the year of fear and change. Many historical events occurred like the attack of the World Trade Center, the great flood of 1993, The Storm of the Century, Michael Jackson’s court case, NASA’s accomplishments, and the National Child Protection Act.

The terrorist attack on the Twin Towers was a shock to all Americans because it was the first time that we were attacked on our own soil. The attack occurred on February 26 at 12:18 pm. An explosion went off in the parking lot beneath Tower 1. The explosion killed six people and injured thousands. Although the explosion was not enough to make the tower collapse, it did cause billions of dollars of damage and a great amount of fear among American citizens. “The blast ripped open a crater 150 feet in diameter and 5 floors deep, rupturing sewer and water mains and cutting off electricity,” ( *World Trade Center*). We later learned that there were seven plotters involved with the attack and many more attacks were being planned for the future. The main person responsible for this attack was found out to be Ramzi Yousef who fled to the Philippines where he made his plans to attack twelve US airlines. Luckily his plans were foiled, but this added to the fear in Americans. This explosion was just a small preview of the tragic terrorist attack that occurred on September 11, 2001. This event was the main event that gives this year its reputation for the year of fear.

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Another major historical event that caused a great amount of fear and anxiety in America was the great flood of 1993. “The Great Flood of 1993 constituted the most costly and devastating flood to ravage the United States in modern history,” (*The Great Flood of 1993*). It is still said to be the worst hydro-meteorological event to occur in the United States of America because of its duration, damage, and record breaking amounts of water. The flood occurred in the American Midwest, lasting from April until October. People experience consecutive flooding of 153 days. Twenty-six people were killed by the flood and the flood cost about fifteen million dollars of damage. Many families were living without homes and shelters for a lot period of time. The flood of 1993 created a massive amount of fear and stress in America.

Another natural weather related disaster occurred in the year of 1993. A huge blizzard hit the East coast of North America. “In March 1993, one of the nation's greatest non-tropical weather events occurred, adversely impacting 100 million individuals and severely crippling the commercial activity of the eastern one-third of the United States, as well as travel activities nationwide,”(*Winter Storms*). It was known as the Storm of the Century, 93 Super Storm, and the Great Blizzard of 1993. It is the largest one-piece storm in recorded history. It hit on March 12 to March 13, 1993. The storm stretched from Canada to Central America but had a major impact on Eastern United States and Cuba. The storm hit twenty-two states and greatly crippled the southern states that were not used to the cold weather. The storm also created hurricane-forced winds which created scattered hurricanes killing dozens of people. The weight of the snow collapsed many homes and buildings and many snow drifts and car accidents occurred. The storm claimed to cause billions of dollars in damage and many lives were taken by the storm, thus adding more stress to American citizens.

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The name Michael Jackson is known to all. “Since his first years as a performer, singing with his brothers in the 1970s pop outfit the Jackson 5, Michael Jackson has ranked as one of the most distinguished and innovative voices in popular music,” (*Freeland*). Michael Jackson created another major shock in the year 1993 by his major court case. Michael Jackson was accused of sexual abuse of thirteen year old Jordan Chandler. Jackson and Jordan became very good friends despite the disapproval of Jordan’s father. Jackson had a Ranch called Never land where he allowed children to sleepover; this did not go well with the public during his trial. Jackson claimed that he was innocent of the charges. A twenty-two million dollar settlement was paid and Jackson was not charged with the crime. This event did hurt Michael Jackson’s career but did not have a big enough impact to ruin it. This court case was a major shock to America and especially to Michael’s fans.

There were a lot of major accomplishments made for the United States in the year of 1993. NASA was striving and changing the way outer space was seen. A major accomplishment was when NASA created the Hubble to take pictures of space. That didn’t go as smoothly as planned. “When the first pictures from Hubble came through, in May 1990, scientists were horrified. The images were blurred - no better than would have been produced by a telescope on Earth,” (*Astronauts Put Hubble Back into Action*). NASA repaired the Hubble in December of 1993. They had to repair a series of corrective mirrors. Since the Hubble has been repaired it has been working extremely well. Many amazing photographs of space have been taken by the Hubble. “Among its most memorable images were startling pictures of Jupiter following the impact of Comet Shoemaker Levy 9 in 1994,” (*Astronauts Put Hubble Back into Action*). Fixing the Hubble was a major success to NASA because it cost over 1.55 billion dollars to

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manufacture. Small accomplishment like this made American technology what it is today. It changed the way people looked at space.

In 1993 President Bill Clinton signed the National Child Protection Act. This act established a national database listing all sex offenders, child abusers, and criminals related to drug and violent crimes. This act allows companies who employ childcare providers to do a background check on individuals to make sure that they were not involved in any of these crimes. This was a big change in the year of 1993. Many Americans were happy about this act because it made them feel safer knowing that childcare providers were being checked on these charges before being hired. This was a major accomplishment.

The year of 1993 should not be forgotten in American history. Many extraordinary events occurred during this year to make it memorable. The events that occurred during this year helped shape what the United States is today. The events that occurred that are worth remembering are the attack of the World Trade Center, the great flood of 1993, Storm of the Century, Michael Jackson’s court case, NASA’s accomplishments, and the National Child Protection Act. The year of 1993 was the year of fear and change. All the events that occurred during this year created fear in American citizens during that time. Every year is an important one. We learned from the events that occurred during 1993 and hopefully we will not make the same mistakes.