Answer Sheet for Fill-In |Osama Bin Laden

Directions: Use this sheet to check your answers for the Fill-In activity on Osama bin Laden (http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/03/fill-in-osama-bin-laden/).

Osama bin Laden was a son of the Saudi elite whose radical, violent campaign to recreate a seventh-century Muslim empire redefined the threat of <u>terrorism</u> for the 21st century.

With the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on <u>Sept. 11,2001</u>, Bin Laden was elevated to the realm of evil in the American imagination once reserved for dictators like <u>Hitler</u> and Stalin. He was a new national enemy, his face on wanted posters, gloating on videotapes, taunting the United States and Western <u>civilization</u>.

He was killed on May 1, 2011 by American military and C.I.A. operatives who tracked him to a compound in <u>Pakistan</u> and shot him during a firefight.

President Obama announced the death in a late-night televised address to the nation. "Justice has been done," he declared.

The United States had been trying to kill or capture Bin Laden since it launched an invasion of <u>Afghanistan</u> in November 2001. The next month, he escaped from American and Afghan troops at an Afghan mountain redoubt called <u>Tora Bora</u>, near the border with Pakistan. For more than nine years afterward, he remained an <u>elusive</u>, shadowy figure frustratingly beyond the grasp of his pursuers and thought to be hiding somewhere in Pakistan and plotting new <u>attacks</u>.

When he was hunted down, Bin Laden was killed not in Pakistan's remote tribal area, where he was long rumored to have taken refuge, but rather in in the city of Abbottadad, about an hour's drive drive north of the Pakistani capital, <u>Islamabad</u>, raising new questions about whether the Pakistani intelligence services had played a role in <u>harboring</u> him.

Long before the Sept. 11th attacks, Bin Laden had become a <u>hero</u> in much of the Islamic world, as much a myth as a man — what a longtime C.I.A. officer called "the North Star" of global terrorism. He had united disparate militant groups, from Egypt to Chechnya, from Yemen to the Philippines, under the banner of <u>Al Qaeda</u> and his ideal of a borderless brotherhood of radical <u>Islam</u>.

After the attacks, the name of Al Qaeda and the fame of Bin Laden spread like a 21st-century political plague. Groups calling themselves Al Qaeda, or acting in the name of its <u>cause</u>, attacked American troops in Iraq, bombed tourist spots in <u>Bali</u> and blew up passenger trains in <u>Spain</u>.

To the day of his death, the precise reach of his power remained <u>unknown</u>: how many members Al Qaeda could truly count on; how many countries its cells had penetrated; and whether, as Bin Laden boasted, he sought to arm Al Qaeda with chemical, biological and <u>nuclear</u> weapons.

Still, the most devastating blow to Al Qaeda may not be the death of its founder, but its sudden slide toward irrelevance as the <u>youth</u> of the Arab world took to the streets in early 2011 to push for <u>democracy</u>, not the Islamic caliphate that was Bin Laden's goal.

