**Theme:** How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery:** Area 3A  
Missouri Boyhood  
Tools of the time  
Life on the Farm

**Significant topics to cover**
1. Growing up on the farm  
(lack of electricity, indoor plumbing, telephones, plowing)  
2. Dear Bess Letters - communication  
3. Horse and buggy - Stafford car - transportation

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
- Photo of horse and plow  
- Farm tools  
- Stafford Car  
- Letters to Bess  
- Crop rotation sketch

**People to be highlighted**
- Bess Wallace  
- Family

**Historical context and anecdotes**
- Life on the Farm without electricity, plumbing, cars, paved roads and tractors.
- Courting Bess without text messaging, email or social media using paper, envelopes, stamps, pens and ink which had to be purchased on rare trips to town.

**Addressing the theme**
- Harry appreciated the advancement of technology
He said he was sorry he didn’t have tractors on the farm and wouldn’t want to go back to horse and buggy days.

The Stafford car was his first car and the fanciest car in Grandview. His mother gave him $650 to buy it which made his trips into Independence to see Bess much faster than the train.

He did use telephones as president but they weren’t reliable so he continued to send Bess and Margaret letters while he was away.

He enjoyed natural gas for heat and indoor plumbing for the first time after moving to the city of Independence.

He used crop rotation for more efficient farming
Theme: How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: Area 3b WWI

Significant topics to cover
WWI

Artifacts to be highlighted
Artillery
Drafting Set/Ruler
Revolver, U.S. Model, 1917

People to be highlighted
Bess
Eddie Jacobson
Battery D

Historical context and anecdotes
He experienced the advancement of weapons from his shotgun on the farm to his time as a soldier.
Using his math skills and the ability to move it by horse advanced technology.
Use the Stafford to stock the canteen in Oklahoma

Addressing the theme
What other technological developments occurred during WWI?
Compare to wars before and after (Planes, tanks, barbed wire, trench warfare, cannons and field guns, mustard gas, etc.)
Theme: How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: Area 4 Atomic Bomb - Japan

Significant topics to cover
Atomic Bomb

Artifacts to be highlighted
Bomb fuse safety plug

People to be highlighted
Stimson
American people
Japanese people
Oppenheimer/scientists

Historical context and anecdotes
He experienced the advancement of weapons from his shotgun on the farm to his time as a soldier and the creation of an atomic bomb. Ultimately his decision to use the bomb ended the war in Japan.

Some discussion of how the bomb worked

Addressing the theme
How did the atomic bomb change Truman’s presidency?
How did the technology change the world?
What did it mean for the future?
Should the technology be shared with other countries?
Theme: How did this technology influence Truman’s presidency?
**Gallery:** Post war

**Significant topics to cover**
Berlin blockade

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Berlin airlift exhibits

**People to be highlighted**
Pilots
Truman
Berlin people

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Use of airlift
Logistics of airlift
Building of runway in French sector

**Addressing the theme**
How did technology assist in the Berlin airlift?
What breakthroughs were made?
What logistical challenges were overcome?
**Theme**: How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery**: Korean War

**Significant topics to cover**

Korean War  
Technological advances

**Artifacts to be highlighted**

Exhibits  
Medical equipment (stretcher, rescue mat, surgeon’s lamp)

**People to be highlighted**

Doctors  
Pilots  
Red Cross

**Historical context and anecdotes**

Use of MASH  
Helicopters = adaptation and use  
Blood collection and distribution (role of Japanese)  
Body armor

**Addressing the theme**

Truman chose not to use Atomic Bomb  
Technological advances reduced mortality rate from 4.5% to 2.5% (WWII to Korea)  
Helicopter use impact today (Hospitals)  
Plastic bags used for collection of blood
**Theme:** How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery:** Oval Office

**Significant topics to cover**

Interest in airplanes seen on walls

**Artifacts to be highlighted**

Photos of aircraft on walls
Television

**People to be highlighted**

Truman

**Historical context and anecdotes**

Harry appreciated the advancement of technology. As president he travelled on airplanes and was fascinated by them. Born in 1880s and died in 1972 (from Wright Brothers to Neil Armstrong in his lifetime)

**Addressing the theme**

Television in the Oval Office

How does the Oval Office show Truman’s interest in technology?
**Theme**: How did technology influence Truman’s life and presidency? (Upper elementary and Middle school)

**Gallery**: Area 15 (downstairs)

**Significant topics to cover**
Technology from horse and buggy to cars

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
- Farm Buggy
- 1950 Cosmopolitan
- 1941 Chrysler Royal Club Coupe
- 1941 Chrysler Windsor Sedan

**People to be highlighted**
- Harry’s father
- Bess

**Historical context and anecdotes**
- Farm buggy his father had purchased for $6.00 in 1914.
- Harry’s life-long love of cars began with a Stafford car he purchased for $650.00 in 1914.
- He purchased two Chryslers in 1941 when technology was available for heater and radio but it was considered extra.

**Optional stops to add**
- Gravesite
- Working Office