

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.)

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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