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

**Gallery:** Early life (Area 3a)

**Significant topics to cover**

1. Mother - childhood
2. Teachers - schooling, piano
3. Farming - his mother and sister

**Artifacts to be highlighted**

- Piano
- Glasses
- School books
- Letters to Bess

**People to be highlighted**

- Mother
- Piano teacher
- School teachers
- Bess
- Mary Jane

**Historical context and anecdotes**

- Wearing glasses and reading instead of sports
- Learning the piano
- Farming
- Reuniting with Bess - Cake plate story (Noland cousins)
- What Bess did with her letters

**Addressing the theme and questions**

How did his teachers (school and piano), his mother and Bess influence his early life?
**Theme**: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery**: WWI

**Significant topics to cover**
Truman didn’t want to marry Bess before he left for France

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Letters home

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Mother
Mary Jane

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Wrote to family worried about the flu affecting them and relayed his war stories back to them
His excitement when he received letters and what that meant to ihm
Morale support from women at home

**Addressing the theme and questions**
How did the support of his mother, Mary Jane and Bess help him during WWI?
What did his mother, sister and Bess do during the war?
**Theme:** How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery:** County judge to VP

**Significant topics to cover**
Marriage to Bess
Birth of Margaret
Margaret’s childhood

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Wedding material
Margaret’s toys
Letters to family

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Margaret

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Marriage
Margaret childhood stories - health
Happiest 10 years in Washington as Senator
Loneliness when they are not there

**Addressing the theme and questions**
Did Bess influence Truman’s early political career? How did she support him?
How did becoming a father affect Truman?
Theme: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: Post war World

Significant topics to cover
Presidential decisions

Artifacts to be highlighted
Letters to Bess in significant moments

People to be highlighted
Bess
Margaret

Historical context and anecdotes
Highlight topics Harry wrote to Bess about (Stalin)
Acknowledge that Bess’ letters from this period don’t exist

Addressing the theme and questions
Did Bess influence Truman’s presidential decisions?
We don’t have much evidence either way but Truman certainly asked for input
**Theme**: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery**: Israel

**Significant topics to cover**
Recognition of Israel

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Letters to Eleanor Roosevelt
Israel artifacts

**People to be highlighted**
Eleanor Roosevelt

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Letters to and from Eleanor Roosevelt

**Addressing the theme and questions**
Did Eleanor Roosevelt influence Truman’s thinking on this decision?
Theme: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: 1948 Election

Significant topics to cover
Family supporting him on the election campaign

Artifacts to be highlighted
Election photos

People to be highlighted
India Edwards
Bess
Margaret

Historical context and anecdotes
Introducing the family from the campaign train
India Edwards role

Addressing the theme and questions
How did his family help on the campaign trail?
Theme: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: Korean War

Significant topics to cover

Artifacts to be highlighted
Typewriter belonging to Vernice Anderson
Ernie Wagner material - WAF uniform, purse, duffel bag

People to be highlighted
Vernice Anderson
Ernie Wagner

Historical context and anecdotes
Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948
Firing of MacArthur
Korean War
Wake Island - Role of Vernice Anderson taking notes

Addressing the theme and questions
While the role of women was limited, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948 was a significant step forward

Vernice Anderson’s role became crucial in the MacArthur Wake Island meeting
**Theme**: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery**: Independence and Mural

**Significant topics to cover**
Family

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Mural
Family photos and videos on the walls

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Margaret
Teachers
Mother

**Historical context and anecdotes**
History of Independence

**Addressing the theme and questions**

How did his female family members influence his early life?
Theme: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

Gallery: Trumans in Washington

**Significant topics to cover**
Family

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
White House renovation

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Margaret

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Time in Washington as a family
The Three Musketeers

**Addressing the theme and questions**
Why was this his happiest time?
How much time did the family spend in Washington?
What role did they play in the White House renovation?
**Theme**: How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery**: Oval Office

**Significant topics to cover**
Family
Frances Perkins

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
List of cabinet members and advisors (lack of women)

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Margaret
Frances Perkins

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Lack of women in powerful positions

**Addressing the theme and questions**
Did Bess influence Truman’s presidential decisions?
We don’t have much evidence either way but Truman certainly asked for input
**Theme:** How did women influence Truman’s life and presidency?

**Gallery:** Gravesites

**Significant topics to cover**
Family

**Artifacts to be highlighted**
Gravesites

**People to be highlighted**
Bess
Margaret

**Historical context and anecdotes**
Gravesites of Harry and Bess and Margaret’s marker
Burial and cremation

**Addressing the theme and questions**
On what side of Truman is Bess buried?

**Optional stop**
Working office