Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Area 4 - First four months and Atomic Bomb

Significant topics to cover
1. German surrender
2. United Nations
3. Potsdam Conference/Test in New Mexico
4. Atomic Bomb Decision

Artifacts to be highlighted
1. Safety plug
2. Paper crane

People to be highlighted
Stimson
Stalin, Churchill
Sadako
US Soldiers
Japanese people

Historical context and anecdotes
Potsdam conference and successful test
Conversations with Churchill and Stalin about the bomb
Letters home to Bess
Decision to use the bomb
Lack of preparation – only 82 days as VP and met FDR only twice

Addressing the theme and questions
Who was most affected by Truman’s decision?
Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Area 5 – Post war world

Significant topics to cover
1. Japan surrender
2. World in disarray
3. Truman’s solutions

Artifacts to be highlighted
1. Exhibits on Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan and Berlin

People to be highlighted
Stalin
People (US and globally)
Marshall, Acheson
European people

Historical context and anecdotes
Cold War, UN and NATO
Truman Doctrine - Opposed to communism
Marshall Plan
Berlin airlift - Rebuilding Europe was paramount and set US on a different course of foreign policy
Domestic issues (strikes, reconversion)

Addressing the theme and questions?
How did the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine affect people in Europe?
How did the Berlin Airlift help people in Germany?
Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Area 6 – Israel

Significant topics to cover
1. Recognition of Israel
2. Disagreement in his own cabinet
3. Pressure from both sides

Artifacts to be highlighted
1. Torah, scroll
2. Silver piano?

People to be highlighted
Eddie Jacobson
Chaim Weizmann
Marshall
Clifford

Historical context and anecdotes
Background of Palestine situation back to World War I and Balfour Declaration
(There is a timeline in the display)
Eddie Jacobson visit to White House (and Weizmann visit)

Addressing the theme and questions?
How did Truman’s decision affect Jewish people?
How did Truman's decision affect Arabs?
What other people were affected by Truman's decision?
Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Area 7 – Civil Rights

Significant topics to cover
1. Civil Rights program and decisions

Artifacts to be highlighted
1. Civil Rights letters
2. Civil Rights video

People to be highlighted
Isaac Woodard
African Americans
White southerners
Military

Historical context and anecdotes
Role of Civil Rights in an election year

Addressing the theme and questions?
How did his Executive Order 9981 and Civil Rights program affect the military, African Americans?
Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Area 8 – Second term, Red Scare and Korean War

Significant topics to cover
1. McCarthyism
2. Korean War
3. Firing of MacArthur

Artifacts to be highlighted
1. Korean War materials
2. Banning letter and Purple Heart

People to be highlighted
McCarthy
MacArthur
Ridgeway
North and South Koreans
United Nations

Historical context and anecdotes
Background on Red Scare, HUAC, Korean War

Addressing the theme and questions?
How did Truman’s decision to enter the Korean War affect US, South Korea, North Korea, Chinese and others?
How did Truman’s decision to fire MacArthur affect others? How did it affect the presidency?
How did Truman’s decision to approve the Loyalty Oath affect people’s lives?
Theme: How did Truman’s (Presidential) decisions change people’s lives?

Gallery: Oval Office

Significant topics to cover
1. Truman’s decision making

Artifacts to be highlighted
Buck Stops Here sign
Oval Office reproduction

People to be highlighted
Truman

Historical context and anecdotes
Truman’s term in office 1945-53

Addressing the theme and questions?
What was Truman’s leadership style?
What does the sign The Buck Stops Here mean?
What does it tell us about his character and his decision making?

Additional tour stops

Working Office
Grave site