

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?
(Elementary and adult)

Gallery: 3A: Missouri Boyhood: Youth, the Hope of the World:

Significant topics to cover

1. Education
2. Dear Bess

Artifacts to be highlighted

Books
Grade card
Letters

People to be highlighted

Bess
Charlie Ross
Harry's teachers

Historical context and anecdotes

Harry's teachers in Missouri were a big influence in his learning, character and served him for the rest of his life.

Harry proposed to Bess in a letter. In it he touches on farming, weather, and his ambitions: "I always had a sneakin' notion that someday maybe I'd amount to something ."

Addressing the theme

What early experiences did he have that helped him later in life?

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation? (Adult)

Gallery: 3B

Significant topics to cover

1. WWI
2. Captain Truman

Artifacts to be highlighted

Army uniform, boots and other WWI materials

People to be highlighted

Battery D friends
Eddie Jacobson
Bess

Historical context and anecdotes

As Captain Truman took charge of a rowdy crowd of soldiers. He dismissed the men who had little regard for him and demoted several non-commissioned officers. He showed he would be fair but firm. He took personal interest in his men and employed strict discipline. He soon earned their respect and loyalty.

Addressing the theme and questions

How did his WWI experience help him later in life?

How did his leadership and responsibility change during this time period?

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?
(elementary - adult)

Gallery: 3C Pendergast Machine
Senator from Missouri

Significant topics to cover

1. Senator
2. Jackson County Eastern Judge

Artifacts to be highlighted

Sni A Bar Road sign
Poster for campaign
Long hand notes (not necessarily on display but some are used in exhibits)

People to be highlighted

Pendergast

Historical context and anecdotes

As county judge he managed finances and employees with focus on public works but struggled to balance honest public service with the Pendergast machine.

He worked as a senator from Missouri and made a name for himself.

Role of Truman Committee in establishing Truman on the national stage

Addressing the theme and questions

How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?

How did Pendergast get him started in politics?

Why was Truman known as the Senator from Pendergast? How did he overcome this?

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation? (Adult only)

Gallery: 5 Postwar World

Significant topics to cover

1. Truman Doctrine
2. Marshall Plan
3. Berlin Airlift
4. Cold War

Artifacts to be highlighted

Exhibits around the gallery feature all these topics

People to be highlighted

George Marshall
Stalin
Acheson

Historical context and anecdotes

Decisions the president made that affected the nation and economy after the war to decisions that affected people around the world.

Addressing the theme and questions

Truman's policy towards rebuilding Europe altered American foreign policy
Truman's decision to defend West Berlin directly affected that city's population and protected democracy and sent a strong message to the world

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?
(Elementary and adult)

Gallery: 7 What's Fair

Significant topics to cover

1. Civil Rights

Artifacts to be highlighted

Political Cartoon: I Stand Pat

Norman Rockwell Painting

Civil Rights video

People to be highlighted

Isaac Woodard

Dixiecrats

Historical context and anecdotes

Although Harry grew up in a segregated environment he desegregated the armed forces causing democrats to split and threatening his election.

Addressing the theme and questions

How did Truman's stand on civil rights affect the nation?

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation? (Adult only)

Gallery: 8 - Korean War

Significant topics to cover

1. Korean War Supreme Test
2. Police Action
3. United Nations
4. Integrated military
5. General MacArthur relieved of Command

Artifacts to be highlighted

Korean War Video

Purple Heart w/ Letter from William Banning

Korean uniforms, medals and mash units

People to be highlighted

Kim Il-sung

General MacArthur

Dean Acheson

Stalin

Historical context and anecdotes

Use of integrated forces, police action and the United Nations set a precedent for future conflicts against communism.

Addressing the theme and questions

How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?

How did Truman's decisions during the Korean War affect the nation and the world?

Theme: How did Harry Truman make history in Missouri and the nation?
(Elementary and adult)

Gallery: Area 11 Oval Office

Significant topics to cover

Presidency
Commander in Chief

Artifacts to be highlighted

Oval Office
The Buck Stops Here - I'm from Missouri

People to be highlighted

Truman

Historical context and anecdotes

The president of the United States holds the highest office in the land. He knew he had to make the hard decisions and it was a reminder of where he came from.

Addressing the theme and questions

How did Congress and the Supreme Court both limit Truman's decisions/policies?

Optional stops to add

Gravesite

Working Office