

Truman Library



“This Library will belong to the people of the united states. My papers will be the property of the people and be accessible to them. And this is as it should be. The papers of the presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used.”

When Harry Truman left the White House in 1953, he and Mrs. Truman rode a train back to Missouri. They were glad to be home. Mr. Truman would take daily walks and he also wrote an autobiography. He wanted to share with readers his experiences as a United States Senator and as Franklin Roosevelt’s vice-president. And, he wanted to explain the tough decisions he made as president. Truman’s special goal was to build a library where his many important papers and gifts would be stored and preserved. He wanted people, especially young people, to be able to learn about our government at his library. His hometown of Independence donated land from Slover Park for the building. Many Americans contributed money to build the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. The building was completed and opened in 1957.

Thousands of people visit the Truman Library and Museum each year. One of the first things that visitors see is a huge mural in the Lobby called “Independence and the Opening of the West.” It was painted by Thomas Hart Benton, a well-known Missouri artist. Visitors can walk into a replica of President Truman’s Oval Office. They can look at the sign that he kept on his desk that says “The Buck Stops Here.” Trained guides called docents take visitors on tours of the Museum exhibits.

Another part of the building is the Library where millions of documents, thousands of photographs and objects are stored. Researchers, authors and students come from all over the world to study about the life and presidency of Harry S. Truman.

Can you put all twenty underlined words in alphabetical order?

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| 1) | 6) | 12) | 17) |
| 2) | 7) | 13) | 18) |
| 3) | 8) | 14) | 19) |
| 4) | 9) | 15) | 20) |
| 5) | 10) | 16) | |