

Lesson Plan
Truman the Man from Missouri
His life and his presidency

Teacher Name: Heidi Waddock Piatchek

Grade level(s):6 - 8

Course: American History

Harry S. Truman Week

Describe the classroom or homework activity to be performed (individual assignment, cooperative learning, cross curricular, technology based, using artifacts and/or primary sources, etc.)

- The students will: 1. Watch slide show and listen to lecture about Harry S. Truman 2. Students will play Truman Jeopardy 3. Students will read letters that Truman wrote. 4. Students will use web to read famous quotes of Harry S. Truman. 5. Students will use an Inspiration Software template to describe Truman and his achievements 6. Students will choose favorite quote, explain its' meaning and display a computer generated copy of it.
- Cross curricular ideas for Math: calculate using the road mileage, Language Arts: journal after reading his letters, Science: Nuclear Power

Rationale (why are you doing this?)

- I have been teaching in St. Louis for 26 years, and have heard minimal mention of Harry S. Truman. He is from Missouri and we should be giving him extra emphasis in our schools.

Required time frame: Ten 45 minute class periods

Where in the teacher conference did you get the idea for this activity or assignment (speaker, document, photograph, activity, audio recording, other)?

- From Dick Kirkendall's talk about Truman and from the visit to the Truman home. I realized what a personable and great man he was. We should be proud that he is from Missouri.

Lesson objectives – the student will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of historical and personal events in Truman's life.
- Demonstrate an understanding of Truman's character.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of Truman's Presidency and how it affects the world we live in today.

District, state, or national performance and knowledge standards/goals/skills met (be specific when referencing):

- Archdiocese of St. Louis, American History as determined by staff at St. Frances Cabrini Academy
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Secondary materials (book, article, video documentary, etc.) needed – cite title and other detailed information:

- Letters in the “Between the Wars” booklet
- Teacher generated slide show
- Truman Library Jeopardy Game
- Truman Letters on line – Truman Library website
- Presidential Quotes website @ <http://www.famous-quotes.com/author.php?aid=7325>

Primary sources (document, photograph, artifact, diary or letter, audio or visual recording, etc.) needed – cite detailed information:

- Online photographs of Truman: Truman Library Website
- Letters from “Between the Wars booklet”
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Fully describe the activity or assignment in detail. What will both you and the students do?

- Teacher will present the slide show and talk to students about Harry S. Truman.
- Ask various questions about His life
- Display the Jeopardy game on screen and play as a whole class in two teams.
- Give a short quiz based on student interests shown in the previous classes.
- Pass out Truman letters and read to them to students as they read along.
- Discuss various aspects of his personality, his concerns, his desires for his family and his nation
- In pod groups ask questions about the nuclear bomb decision and report back to the class.
- In computer lab, give the directions for the Inspiration software template. The outline is:
 - A. Truman
 - 1. Relationships (student will identify 3)
 - 2. Personality traits (3)
 - 3. Occupations (3)
 - 4. Presidential Achievements (3)
 - 5. Repeat of Presidential Achievements (3)
 - 6. Family (3)
 - 7. Important Dates in Truman’s life (3)

Research the web site for famous quotes and choose one to generate and explain to the class.

Assessment: fully explain your assessment method in detail or create and attach your scoring guide:

- test over Truman using multiple choice and short answer
- Grade for Inspiration template

Archdiocese of St. Louis grading scale:

- 94% - 100% A
- 85% - 93% B
- 78% - 84 C
- 70% -77% D