

Truman's Early Life in Missouri

Background:

Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. In 1887, his family moved to his grandparents' farm in Grandview. In rural areas there were no gas or electricity so his family used wood stoves, candles and oil lamps for heat and light. There was no indoor plumbing so they carried pails for water and outhouses for their toilet. When he was six years old, Harry and his family moved once again, this time to Independence. His family had no car and no telephone. Harry spent all of his childhood in the area surrounding Kansas City, Missouri and graduated from Independence High School in 1901. Harry's experiences growing up in Missouri helped shape his personality and his presidency. He never wanted to forget where he came from. The other side of his famous "The Buck Stops Here" sign that sat on his Oval Office desk proudly read "I'm From Missouri" to always remind him of his humble roots.

Standard:

3.TS.7.A.a Select, and analyze primary and secondary Social Studies' sources to determine importance with guidance and support.

3.E.4.D.a Explain the factors, past and present, that influence changes in our state's economy (technology, movement of people, resources, etc.).

Materials Needed:

Copy of provided photographs (5)

"Truman's Life in Missouri" Worksheet

Pencil

NARA analysis worksheet

<https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/artwork-analysis-worksheet.pdf>

Vocabulary:

Artifact- an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest

Primary Source- an original record or item created at the time of an event, or an eye-witness account recorded after an event occurs

Note: an artifact can be a primary source

Procedure:

1. Discuss background information with the class.
2. Define (with examples) *artifact* and *primary source*
3. Activity 1: Analyze photographs

Assessment: Each student will analyze primary source photographs then discuss and answer questions about how both Missouri and the United States have changed since Harry's childhood.

Activity 1: In five groups, pass out one photograph per group and use visual thinking strategies to discuss and analyze with the class. Then complete the worksheet.

What do you notice?

What else do you notice?

What makes you say that?

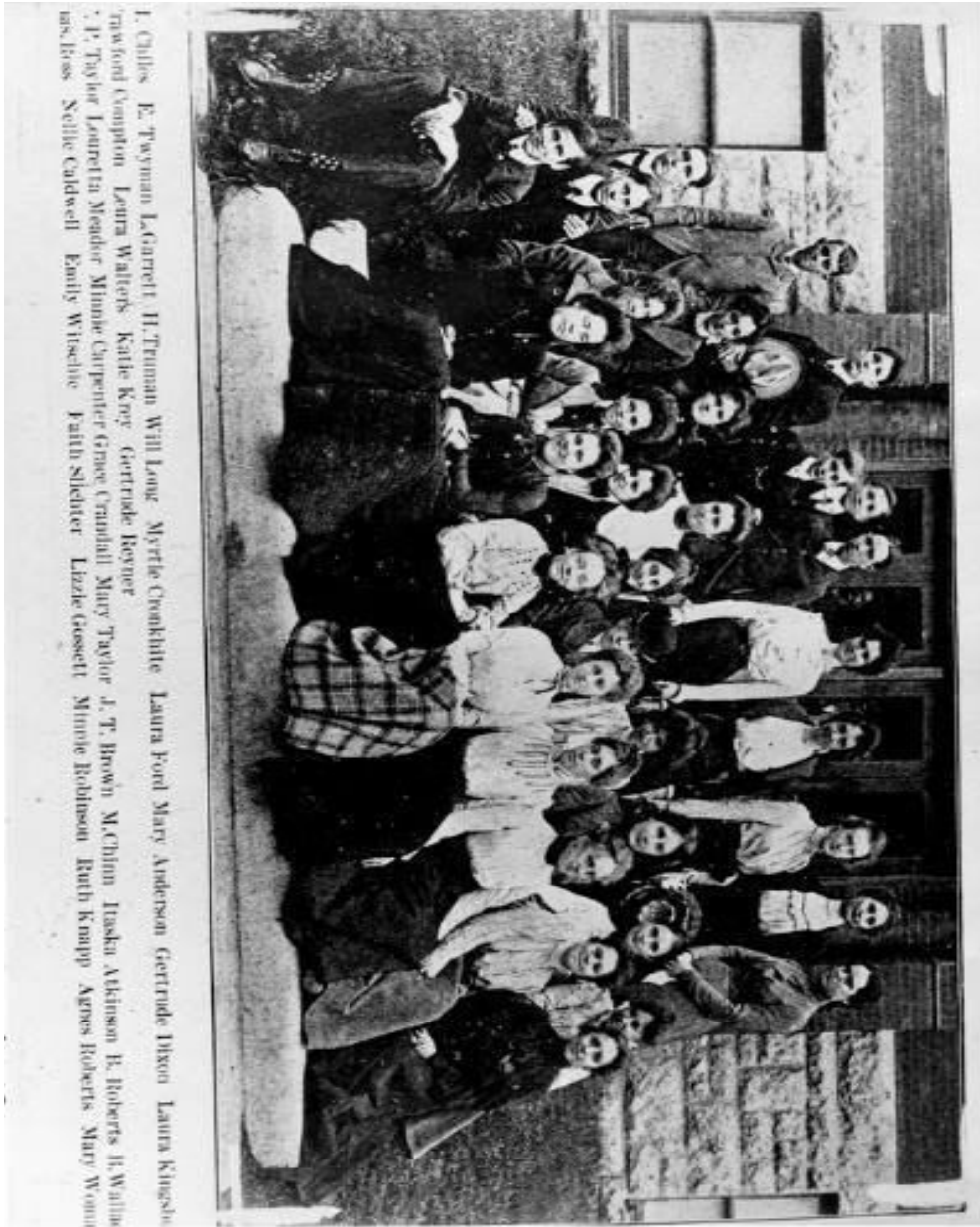
Use the NARA analysis sheet to examine the painting more closely

<https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/artwork-analysis-worksheet.pdf>

Farming years, 1910



Harry S. Truman's Graduating Class, Independence High School, 1901



I. Childs E. Poyman L. Garrett H. Truman Will Long Myrtle Cronkhite Laura Ford Mary Anderson Gertrude Dixon Laura Klugsho
 Crawford Compton Leona Walters Katie Krey Gertrude Keyser
 J. P. Taylor Lauretta Meador Minnie Carpenter Grace Crandall Mary Taylor J. T. Brown M. Chinn Inaska Atkinson E. Roberts H. Wallin
 Mrs. Bliss Nellie Caldwell Emily Whitacre Faith Schlicher Lizzie Gosselt Minnie Robinson Ruth Knapp Agnes Roberts Mary Womn

Grand Avenue, Kansas City, MO. ca 1900





Girls learning to use a stove. ca 1899

The Truman Family Farmhouse, Grandview, MO. ca 1905



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Using the photographs provided, answer the following questions about life in Missouri during Harry S. Truman's childhood.

1. Can you find Harry in his class picture? Where is he?

2. When Harry was growing up, how did people dress?

3. How did Harry and his family travel without a car?

4. What things did Harry use since they did not have heating, electricity or plumbing?

5. How is Kansas City different from when Harry was growing up?

6. What kinds of chores do you think Harry did on the farm?

7. What do you notice about the photos?

8. How is Harry's childhood different from yours?

9. What do these photos tell us about Harry's experience growing up in Missouri?

ANSWER KEY: Truman's Early Life in Missouri

1. Harry is fourth from the left on the top row.
2. Women and girls wore long dresses down to their ankles. Men and boys wore suit coats, trousers, and dress hats.
3. Harry's family and others used horse and buggy. If they were in the city, they could use the streetcar.
4. Families used wood and coal burning stoves to cook and heat their homes. They also used chamber pots, outhouses, and wells. To entertain himself, Harry liked to read a lot of books, especially history.
5. No cars, no busses, dirt roads instead of paved, smaller population, people had to walk more to get where they needed to go, no traffic lights, different architecture
6. Plow the field, milk the cow, bail hay, haul hay, chop wood, clean chimney, start a fire in the stove, clean the stove, clean the kitchen
7. Varies based on student
8. Varies based on student
9. Harry had to work hard, his family did not have a lot of money, he had to be creative to entertain himself