

Truman Presidential Museum & Library

Mark Adams, Ray Geselbracht, Tom Heuertz and Judy O'Neill, Educators



www.trumanlibrary.org

Teacher Talk

Fall 2002

Smithsonian Presidential Treasures Opens October 12!

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History has created a traveling exhibit of more than 350 artifacts that explore not only the history of the office, but the men who have served as Chief Executive of the United States. Coming to the Truman Presidential Museum & Library, **"The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden"** will open October 12, 2002 and close May 11, 2003.



More about "The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden" on page 4

Students and Adults Making History

More than 2,300 students put their social studies skills to work this past semester as they participated in presidential decision making at the White House Decision Center. Taking on the roles of President Truman and his advisors, students encountered major historical dilemmas. Primary source documents were analyzed as students formulated advice and possible actions in this one-of-a kind experiential setting. Many teachers stated that this was their students' educational high point for the



The White House Decision Center



entire school year. Educators at the Truman Library are now planning for the 2002-2003 school year. More than 2,500 students are enrolled so far but there still are plenty of open days. For more information or a reservation form, call Tom Heuertz (816-833-1400/253, 1-800-833-1225/253) or e-mail him at tom.heuertz@nara.gov.

*More about
The White House Decision Center on page 2*

Thank You!

Truman Library staff would like to thank the following public school districts and schools for making this innovative program a major success!

Missouri Districts

- Raytown
- Lee's Summit
- North Kansas City
- Columbia
- Kansas City
- Blue Springs
- Pleasant Hill
- Nevada
- Independence
- St. Joseph
- Oak Grove
- Pilot Grove
- Platte County
- Kearney
- Park Hill
- Liberty
- Cass-Midway Center

Kansas Districts

- Kansas City
- Blue Valley
- Shawnee Mission
- Olathe
- DeSoto
- Cherokee
- Lawrence
- Paola

Charter/Private Schools

- Oak Hill Day School
- Pembroke Hill
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- Hogan Prep Academy
- Maur Hill Prep
- Notre Dame de Sion
- Topeka Collegiate
- St. Therese
- College Heights Christian
- Holy Rosary
- Archbishop O'Hara



WHDC for Adults

Over the summer months, the White House Decision Center was in action as several adult groups experienced a variation of the program on a pilot basis. Feedback for these "popular" versions of the program has been very positive and interest is growing.



Participants from the Abundant Life Elderhostel during their White House Decision Center experience.

White Rose Student Essay Contest

The White Rose Student Essay Contest, sponsored by the MidWest Center for Holocaust Education, is now open to students in grades 8 through 12. There will be two divisions this year for the first time. One division for 8th and 9th graders and a second for students in grades 10 through 12. Students will be asked to write a 1,200 word essay for the contest. Theme information and rules are available from MCHE at

Aftermath of the Holocaust: Truman and the Postwar World



Teachers analyzing documents from the Truman Library archives related to the Holocaust workshop themes.

In July, the Truman Presidential Museum and Library and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education (MCHE) jointly presented a four-day teacher workshop devoted to post WW II aspects of the Holocaust and Harry Truman's central role. Topics included the liberation of the camps, Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, displaced persons, and the creation of the State of Israel. Local presenters, and staff from the Truman Library and Eisenhower Library presented on the various topics.

Dr. Mary Johnson from the acclaimed Facing

Teacher comments about the workshop:

- ✓ Using the primary source materials was awesome!
- ✓ What a great four days-great presenters
- ✓ Personally, this was excellent – good for my classroom
- ✓ Exceptional informational workshop
- ✓ I am very impressed – the class far exceeded my expectations in every way
- ✓ You do it so well – MCHE and Truman Library
- ✓ Excellent, intense

History and Ourselves national program and Dr. Harry Reicher from the University of Pennsylvania Law School were keynote presenters. This workshop gave teachers the necessary historical background and teaching resources, including access to the rich documents contained in the Truman Library archives. The workshop was made possible by a grant to the MCHE from the Philip and Dorothy Byer Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City. The Truman Library and MCHE look forward to developing future teacher workshops in coming years.

New Educator

Dr. Ray Geselbracht recently assumed leadership of the education staff as the new Education & Academic Outreach Coordinator. Ray has been with the Truman Library for 14 years serving as a supervisory archivist, and special assistant to the director. He has been active in developing new education programs such as Spy's Dilemma, The Hunt for Harry Truman map, and the White House Decision Center.



Smithsonian's *Glorious Burden* (Continued from page 1)

Presidential Campaigns, the first of nine exhibit areas, looks at the slogans and items presidential candidates and their supporters have used trying to win the hearts and minds of voters. A William Henry Harrison miniature log cabin (1840), an early 20th century ballot box, and a 1950s "Ike" dress, demonstrate how campaign and election processes have changed since the 19th century. Gone are the days when presidential hopefuls had little personal involvement with the voters because it was thought to be undignified to actively seek votes for yourself.

George Washington is, of course, the focus of *Creating the Presidency*. His writing desk, silver candlesticks, and inauguration buttons are, but a few, of Washington's belongings on display. Inauguration ribbons, Dwight D. Eisenhower inaugural license plates, plus Grover Cleveland's top hat and coat serve as reminders of the ceremony and excitement with which we greet a new President in *Celebrating Inaugurations*. A pen used by Lyndon Baines Johnson to sign the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Budget Books, and the first shell fired by Americans in WW I, symbolize three of the seven roles a President must play in *Acting Presidential*. In *Limits of Power* those times when a President has been

accused of overstepping his constitutional authority is addressed. Senate passes to the impeachment proceedings of Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, and the draft of John Dean's Watergate testimony are some of the indicators that occasionally Americans feel their President needs to be reminded that he is not above the law.

The White House explores the challenges of living in the America's official residence. Pieces of china used at State dinners, a gown worn by Jackie Kennedy, and pajamas belonging to Warren G. Harding symbolize the very public, and the private side of residing in the White House.

"Assassination and Mourning" honors the eight Presidents who died in office. Lincoln's life mask, a ticket to the trial of Garfield's assassin, and the teletype announcing the death of JFK are among the objects that serve notice that being President is not without risk. Ribbons, cards, and mourning programs testify to the tremendous outpouring of emotion by the public when a President dies in office.

"Popular Imagination" demonstrates how it is not only the men who have been President, but the very office itself, that hold a fascination for us. The impact on American culture is shown in music, movies, ads, and a myriad of

souvenirs. A citrus company evokes the name of Abe Lincoln to sell fruit, Andrew Jackson's image is used to promote tobacco, and a specially designed mold enables one to fashion candy in the likeness of George Washington.

What do Presidents do after leaving office? *"Life After the White House"* offers a glimpse into the new careers of some, and favorite pastimes of others. See the compass Washington used to manage Mount Vernon, and the tool belt used by Jimmy Carter to build Habitat for Humanity homes.

Hundreds of objects, coupled with video stations, make "The Glorious Burden" an excellent companion to the "Harry S. Truman: The Presidential Years" exhibit. Both offer teachers an engaging way to enhance student knowledge of the office, and the men who have served as President of the United States. While supplies last, educators booking a guided tour for students, will receive a teacher's manual (grades 4-12) produced by the Smithsonian especially for "The Glorious Burden" exhibit. Call

Of the Presidency,

**Thomas Jefferson lamented,
"...it [the presidency] brings nothing but unceasing drudgery and daily loss of friends."**

**Harry Truman reflected,
"To be President of the United States is to be lonely, very lonely at times of great decision...."**

Truman Library and The American Heartland Theatre



John Henry Redwood portraying White House Butler, Alonzo Fields

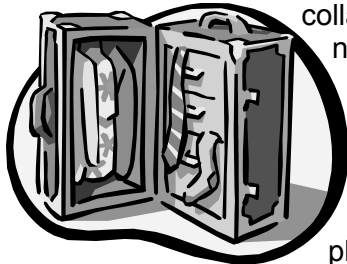
The newly renovated Truman Presidential Museum and American Heartland Theatre have joined together to offer an exceptional opportunity for your class this fall! For only \$10 per student your class can tour the Truman Presidential Museum in the morning and see the live production of "Looking Over the President's Shoulder" at the American Heartland Theatre in the afternoon!

**School group bookings are still available for September 18, October 2 and October 16.
For more information call Jo at the American Heartland Theatre 816-842-0202 x220.**

"Looking Over the President's Shoulder" is based on the life of chief butler Alonzo Fields who worked in the White House during Harry Truman's administration and three others. It gives a warm and funny look behind the scenes of the Oval Office during extraordinary times in U. S. history. Alonzo Fields' papers are housed at the Truman Presidential Museum & Library.

TRUMAN FOOTLOCKER GETS NEW LOOK!

Questions from students such as, "what did Margaret play with when she was a girl? what did she do when her dad was President? what did ladies like Bess Truman wear?" prompted a few new additions to the increasingly popular Truman Trunk. For advice as to what objects could be added that would help explain life before television, video games, and computers to youngsters today, we called upon the expertise of our Museum Collections staff. After much research and a day of browsing local vintage stores, the result has been the inclusion of jacks, marbles, and 1940s sheet music as items that relate to Margaret. Representing Mrs. Truman is a 1940s style hat, a purse (with a replica of her driver's license), pearls, earrings, and gloves. The President has not been overlooked. A colorful bow tie of the style sold in his haberdashery is attached to a collar. The drug store bottle symbolic of his first job at Clinton's Drug Store now sports a copy of an early 20th century Clinton Pharmacy label from our collection. Many thanks to Pat Dorsey and Mark Beveridge for their help in adding to the authentic quality of the Truman Trunk.



As the major objective of the footlocker is to encourage teachers to introduce and use primary sources in teaching social studies, all documents have been placed in a notebook with laminated 8 x 10 photographs of Truman's life and presidency.

To reserve a Truman Trunk for a two-week period, contact Judi at (816) 833-1400 x 255 or judi.o'neill@nara.gov. Please call four weeks in advance.

Harrisonville student places third at National History Day contest

Brian Hawkins from Harrisonville Christian School placed third in the nation at the National History Day contest with his documentary *James Scott, Ragtime Composer: A Revolution in Music*.

National History Day (NHD) is a year-long, non-profit education program dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history in elementary and secondary schools. National History Day makes history come alive for students who participate in the NHD program. The NHD student competition is the nation's oldest and most highly regarded humanities contest for students in grades 6-12. This academic challenge engages more than 700,000 young people annually.

Brian, who won first place in the Missouri state contest, also won two special prizes, the Strickland African American History Prize and the Loman Cansler Folk History Prize. His teacher is Carol Bohl. He had previously qualified from the Greater Kansas City area contest at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library.

Students compete first at the regional level (Greater Kansas City). First, second and third place entrants qualify for the state finals in Columbia. First and second place winners at Columbia proceed to the national finals in Washington, D.C. each June. Prizes, certificates, and scholarships are available at each level of the competition.

National History Day is one of the rare programs that provides students the critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas. For more than 25 years the NHD program has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. National History Day provides teachers with training and curriculum materials to help educators exceed education standards. The NHD program rewards innovation and interdisciplinary approaches in the classroom.

More than nine million students have participated in the NHD program and gone on to careers in business, law, medicine, teaching and countless other disciplines where they are putting into practice the skills and knowledge gained through NHD. More than two million people are engaged in the NHD program annually. National History Day programs are established in 47 states and the District of Columbia. NHD engages all types of students-public, private, parochial and home-school students; urban, suburban and rural students. Any student in grades 6-12 may enter the national contest in either junior (grades 6-8) or senior (grades 9-12) divisions.

National History Day was established in 1974 as a local contest at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio to help reinvigorate the teaching and learning of history in elementary and secondary schools. The program quickly expanded throughout Ohio and into surrounding Midwestern states before becoming a national program in 1980. With initial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, NHD expanded during the 1980s and 1990s. While the competition itself remains the core of the program, NHD has expanded its services to provide workshops, seminars, and curriculum materials for teachers and summer internships for students.

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library is proud to be a sponsor of the National History Day program and host of the regional competition for the Greater Kansas City area (Missouri). For more information about the program contact Mark Adams at 816-833-1400 ext. 267 or e-mail mark.adams@nara.gov.

2002-2003 Theme

Rights & Responsibilities in History

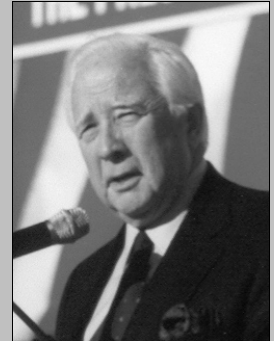
Teaching materials and theme information is available from Mark Adams at mark.adams@nara.gov

A History Day teacher's workshop will take place on **Saturday, November 16** from 9 am to noon. Successful entries from previous years will be demonstrated. This year's theme will be examined and tips for creating History Day entries will be shared. The workshop is free but you should email Mark Adams at mark.adams@nara.gov to confirm your attendance.



David McCullough Encourages NY Student to Apply for Internship

Tim Leach, a senior history major from Syracuse University, recently completed a summer internship in archives and education. During his stay with us, Tim wrote activities for students, reprocessed the papers of Richard C. Cull, and worked the reference desk. Tim learned about the Truman internship in an interesting way. After attending a lecture by David McCullough, Tim was fortunate enough to meet and chat with the author who told him about the internship and encouraged him to apply. He took McCullough's advice and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. Check out the online student activity Tim created for Sen. Truman's 1939 National Defense speech on our web site. Best wishes to Tim as he pursues a postgraduate degree in history and enters the teaching profession. To learn about student internships and volunteer opportunities, visit the Truman Library homepage, www.trumanlibrary.org



OAH magazine lesson plan features Library web site

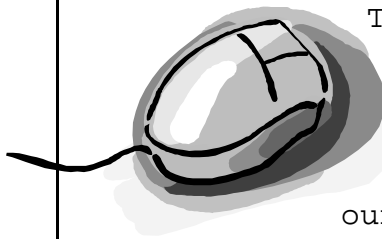
The Magazine of History features a lesson plan based on materials found on the Truman Library web site in its March 2002 issue. The magazine is published by the Organization of American Historians (OAH).

The lesson plan, "Change Over Time: Integrating the Army" was written by Tim Dugan a history teacher at Princeton High School, outside of Cincinnati. The lesson plan uses seven documents related to Truman's desegregation of the armed forces. Each document relates to the inclusion of black soldiers in the U.S. military and reflects the changing attitudes of and toward African Americans.

In addition to the documents related to desegregation, the Truman Library has an

extensive collection of documents online on many more topics. There are 12 topical "student research files" online. Each file includes copies of documents from the Library's collection selected as being the most important on its subject.

The online collection enables educators to work with the original source material of the Truman Library; to use technology and primary sources in the classroom; and to develop an online resource of original Truman Library documents, photographs, records, cartoons, and other archival material for student research projects. To use these online materials teachers should visit our web site at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org> and click on documents.



Teaching activities related to President Truman's desegregation of the armed forces and to Senator Truman's views about national defense have been added to our online collection of lesson plans for teachers and students. If you would like to see our collection of Elementary and Secondary Lessons visit our web site at www.trumanlibrary.org and click on

The WW II Map Room

Two weeks after Pearl Harbor, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived for a stay in the Rose Suite at the White House. Churchill wanted to talk with Roosevelt because he was worried that he would place the war with Japan in Asia as his first priority, rather than the defeat of Hitler's Germany in Europe. Both Churchill and FDR delighted in the world of espionage. British secret messages were delivered to the Prime Minister in locked red dispatch cases with the stamped warning "THIS BOX IS ONLY TO BE OPENED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN PERSON". Churchill's Bletchley codebreakers, whom he referred to as "the geese who laid the golden eggs and never cackled," were supplying him with decryptions of the secret German "Ultra" code. He in turn chose which ones to share with the Americans. Unbeknownst to the U.S., the British had been reading State Department codes for over 20 years.

Churchill, while at the White House, set up a portable version of his London Map Room in the Monroe Room. After Churchill departed, FDR had to have his own secret Map Room. It was located in a remodeled ladies cloakroom on the first floor. Large wall maps, many supplied by the National Geographic Society, were updated two or three times a day. They displayed the war's progress on land and sea. Filing safes contained incoming and outgoing top secret, secret and confidential encoded military and diplomatic cables. Housed in the room were cryptographic systems and coding equipment. Specially designed pins showed the location of the Big Three allied leaders at any time. Roosevelt's was shaped like a cigarette holder, Churchill's a cigar, and Stalin's a pipe. Colored pins on the maps showed the position of allied and enemy forces. FDR visited at least twice a day. Naval aides operated the center 24 hours a day. Only six persons from FDR's staff could enter this communications and intelligence post without permission. When the President traveled to Warm Springs or Yalta, Map Room officers accompanied him. Vice President Truman did not know of the room's existence until late January 1945.

After Roosevelt's death in April 1945 the new President, Harry S. Truman, also became a frequent visitor to the Map Room. Truman used the information contained in the files and the maps to prepare for his Potsdam meeting with Churchill and Stalin. On a National Geographic 1944 map stamped "Top Secret", the enemy and allied troop strengths, invasion timetable, and logistical requirements for a November 1945 invasion of Japan were laid out. George Elsey, a naval officer who served as the "watchman" in the room, and also as a White House aide to both President Roosevelt and Truman, recalled seeing Truman standing in the portable Map Room at Potsdam in deep reflection, profoundly disturbed as he looked over the Japanese map and contemplated U.S. casualties. Truman hand wrote the brief order to drop the atomic bomb in this Map Room and handed it to Elsey to encode and send out to the military. The Map Room closed in 1946.

The Truman Presidential Museum and Library's archives hold 1600 pages of Map Room documents covering the closing months of WW II. A large map of the planned invasion of Japan (declassified in 1995) is featured in the museum's important new exhibit, "Harry S. Truman: The Presidential Years."

Sources:

- 1) *Roosevelt's Secret War*, ©Joseph Persico, Random House, 2001, ISBN 0-375- 50246-7
- 2) "Blueprints for Victory", National Geographic, May 1995
- 3) "George Elsey's White House Career, 1942-1953," Masters thesis by Carol Briley, 1976. (Carol currently serves as an archivist at the Truman Library.)



Truman Presidential Museum & Library 2002-2003 Educational Programs

Grades	Program	Description
8-12	White House Decision Center	Students role play President Truman and his advisors as they face major decisions in post WWII history. A five module experiential curriculum with a day in the White House Decision Center. A unique, skill building experience for history, government/civics, sociology, language arts, and ROTC students. (contact Tom)
K-12	Footlocker	This footlocker contains Truman related artifact replicas and teaching activities – teacher can check out a footlocker free of charge for up to two weeks. Contact Judi to pick up a footlocker.
4-Adult	www.trumanlibrary.org	This award-winning site contains 27,000 pages of primary documents, photographs, cartoons, and teaching activities for many audiences. (contact Mark)
4-9	Truman Places Map	A cooperative group or individual activity where students locate KC area sites linked to Harry Truman on a colorful map. A good map interpretation skill lesson conducted in your classroom. (Contact Judi)
4-12	Guided tours	Arrange a docent led tour and receive a “Presidential Years” curriculum guide. The admission fee for school groups is \$2.00 per student with one free adult per 10 students. You must call four weeks in advance to book a tour. (contact Nancy Myers at 1-800-833-1225 x 243)
6-12	National History Day	Missouri students compete regionally each March at the Truman Library. Finalists in the four categories proceed to the state, and national levels. (contact Mark)
8-12	Spy’s Dilemma	This classroom exercise is a cooperative group or individual activity where students serve as members of Soviet spy rings reading and analyzing once secret U.S. documents. (contact Judi)
8-12	Top Secret: WWII	Students in this cooperative group or individual activity act as U.S. World War II intelligence agents as they classify documents related to U.S. actions in the closing months of the war. A classroom exercise. (contact Judi)

Over for more programs and contact information

2002—2003 Educational Programs (continued from reverse)

Grades	Program	Description
8-12	Presidential Decision Making Kit	Students receive a synopsis of a critical situation. Using primary sources, students analyze the crisis from several points of view and make a recommendation to “President Truman.” (contact Judi)
8-College	Student Research Files	These primary documents cover 53 topics. Twelve student research files are available online and all are available at the Truman Museum, UMKC, Longview Community College, Graceland University-Independence Campus, and the Mid-Continent Library System. For a brochure contact truman.education@nara.gov
8-Adult	Thomas Hart Benton Mural	A slide presentation explaining the concept and creation of this masterpiece by the famous Missouri painter. (contact Ray)
Teachers	Teacher Talk	This newsletter, containing Truman Museum related news, is published twice during the school year. (contact Tom)
Teachers	E-Talk	This monthly e-mail bulletin presents the latest educational news. Send your name, e-mail and school to < Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov >
Teachers	Video Library	More than 60 videos related to Truman, WW I, WW II, Cold War, and the 1940’s & 1950’s are available for a free two-week loan. List of available videos is online at trumanlibrary.org (contact Judi)
Teachers	In-Service	We offer a variety of teacher in-service programs at the Truman Presidential Museum or in district schools. (contact Tom)
Teachers	Workshops	The Great War (WW I) (Thursday evening November 8th and Saturday November 9th) - optional graduate credit. (contact Tom)

Truman Presidential Museum & Library

816/833-1400 or 800/833-1225

24 hour teacher information line - ext. 384

Museum Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday

See coupon for free admission for educators on the back cover of this issue of “Teacher Talk.”

Truman Educators

Mark Adams - ext. 267 <Mark.adams@nara.gov>

Ray Geselbracht - ext. 263 <Ray.geselbracht@nara.gov>

Tom Heuertz - ext. 253 <Tom.heuertz@nara.gov>

Judi O’Neill - ext. 255 <Judi.o’neill@nara.gov>

Please print. You will receive Truman Museum educational news updates.

Name: _____

School: _____

School District: _____

Subject: _____

School Address: _____


City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Coupon for free admission to the Truman Presidential Museum & Library for educators. See reverse for details. Duplicate coupons accepted.

New Videos Added to Video Library!

If you are looking for videos on Truman or the 1940s-1950s, check out the 60 titles in our Video Library. A few recent additions to our collection include, *Tuskegee Airmen*, *MacArthur's War With Truman*, and *The Greatest Generation*. See a complete list of titles available to educators (FREE!) on our web site.



Upcoming Exhibitions and Programs



The Truman Presidential Museum & Library will bring in important speakers such as Richard Holbrooke, Kati Marton, Michael Beschloss and Alonzo Hamby to augment the exhibition "The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden." Other scheduled exhibitions include: "Cartoons for Defense" (running through October 31, 2002), which features cartoons presented to the President by famous artists of the day to help promote the sale of 1952 Defense Bonds; "World War II in Posters" (Nov. 10, 2002 - July 30, 2003), which features a selection of war-time posters designed to build morale and to urge citizens to contribute their part to the war effort; and "Conflict and Consequence: The Korean War and its Unsettled Legacy" (July - December 2003), which examines the Korean War through the eyes of individuals who participated in policy development, battlefield combatants, and observers affected by the human tragedy of the war. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our web site at trumanlibrary.org. You may also be placed on our electronic mail list to receive periodic updates on upcoming programs by e-mailing truman.library@nara.gov.

“ 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. ”

Harry S. Truman

Truman Presidential Museum & Library *Free Admission for Educators*

One coupon required for each educator.
Must show valid school identification and complete the information on the reverse of this coupon. Non-educator members of party will be required to pay museum admission.

500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
816/833-1400
www.trumanlibrary.org

Museum Hours
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Open until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Sundays: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission
Adults: \$5 • Seniors: \$4.50 • Children (6-18): \$3 • Under age 6: *Free*

Duplicate Coupons Accepted

Expires December 31, 2002

Please circulate this publication among your colleagues!

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Teacher Talk

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