Your Museum is a Gateway to Primary Resources for Educators

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Rayburn either signed, sponsored, or witnessed most of the important legislation during the first half of the 20th century.

- Increased power of the Interstate Commerce Commission
- Supporter of Roosevelt’s New Deal, Truman’s Fair Deal, and Kennedy’s New Frontier programs
- Sponsored the War Risk Insurance Act during World War I
- Chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee (1931-37)
- New Deal legislation that passed with Rayburn’s direction: Truth in Securities Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission Act, the Federal Communications Commission Act, the Public Utilities Holding Company Act, the Emergency Railroad Transportation Act
- Co-Sponsor of the Norris-Rayburn Act which established the Rural Electrification Administration
- He was an avid supporter of the Lend Lease Act (1941)
A Lifetime of Public Service

- His great parliamentary powers led to the extension of the Selective Service Act in the summer of 1941. This meant that when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States had an equipped, trained, and was prepared to mobilize an army of nearly 2 million men and not 400,000.
- Rayburn was an advocate for the 1944 Serviceman’s Readjustment Act, commonly known as the G.I. Bill.
- The Manhattan Project’s $1.6 million funding was provided through clever, secret legislative maneuvering by Rayburn.
- At President Truman’s insistence played a significant role in passage of the Marshall Plan (1948).
- The Civil Rights Act of 1957 and 1960 passed Congress in part because Rayburn secured the votes.
- January 1961, expansion of the House Rules Committee from 12 to 15 members to all but guarantee passage of President Kennedy’s New Frontier program.
Learning Resources

Learn about Texas history, historical sites and preservation, and other history-related content areas through these free, downloadable resources for K-12 students and teachers.

Content Area Lesson Plans

- Archeology
- Cemeteries
- Historical Markers
- Military History

THC Historic Sites Lesson Plans and Site Guides

https://www.thc.texas.gov/education/learning-resources
Explore THC’s Lesson Plans and Site Guides
Materials
- Historical images
- Activity worksheets
- *Mr. Sam, Mr. Speaker* video link [https://youtu.be/3ks41sLE6qs](https://youtu.be/3ks41sLE6qs)

Vocabulary
- **representative**: someone elected to act for others
- **Speaker of the House of Representatives**: The leader of the House of Representatives. He or she directs all activities on the House floor, including recognizing members who attempt to speak or make a motion and appointing members to committees that review all bills. The Speaker is third in line for the presidency after the vice president.

Activity: “Another American Success Story”
10 minutes

Display the political cartoon, “Another American Success Story.” Tell students to study the drawing and answer the following questions:

- What is this political cartoon about? Who are the characters in the cartoon?
- Does the cartoonist have a personal opinion about the subject? How can you tell?
- How can political cartoons affect state or national opinion on a subject?

Discuss student answers. Tell students that this cartoon references the unanimous 1940 election of Sam Rayburn as Speaker of the House of the U.S. Congress. Rayburn, a Democratic Congressman from Bonham, Texas, would become the longest-serving Speaker, a distinction that still holds today.
AN’ IT SAYS HE WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED!

WELL, THAT JUST SHOWS HOW FAR A BOY CAN MAKE HIS WAY UP FROM AN OLD TEXAS FARM.

BURNED CHAIR OF HOUSE

MRS. TEXAS
Activity: Mr. Sam
10 minutes

Introduce students to “Mr. Sam” and display the image Mr. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House.

Share:

- Sam Rayburn was elected to the Texas House of Representatives when he was 24 years old.
- In 1911, at age 29, Mr. Sam was elected Speaker of the House—the youngest Speaker in Texas history.
- In 1913, Mr. Sam was elected to the United States House of Representatives by the Texas 4th District. He served in the U.S. House for 48 years—through eight different presidencies, two World Wars, and the Great Depression.
- Mr. Sam was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives ten times, serving for a total of 17 years. At this point, he remains the longest serving Speaker in American history.
- Mr. Sam was a trusted advisor to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and John F. Kennedy. He was also a mentor to Lyndon B. Johnson.

Display and read the following newspaper quote about Sam Rayburn’s childhood ambition:

“This was pretty good going for a poor country boy, born the eighth child of 11 in the Tennessee hills and raised on 40 acres in Texas. With nothing to do by chop cotton and read history books, young Rayburn had picked his career before he was 10. He built it on $25, hard work, and the will to succeed.”

Citation: Eleazer, Frank. [Newspaper Clipping: Mr. Sam Mingled With—and was One of Nation's Greats], clipping. Date unknown. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Sam Rayburn House Museum.
Ask: *What problems or obstacles did Sam Rayburn overcome to meet his goal?*

[Answers may include: poverty, many siblings meant money and attention were likely stretched, he was raised in the country and not a city which usually meant that education and other resources were harder to find, he worked in the fields at a young age.]

Ask: *According to this newspaper article, Sam Rayburn built his success on what three things?*

[$25, hard work, and the will to succeed]

**Context:** As a very young man, Sam Rayburn knew he wanted to represent his fellow citizens in the House of Representatives. “Mr. Sam,” as he was called by many, was known to welcome his constituents, or voters, into his own home in Bonham, Texas. In his sitting room, Rayburn and his fellow citizens discussed their interests, local needs, and the politics of the day.

Although his work in Washington, D.C. solidified his place in history, Rayburn always maintained his interest in the family farm and in the work of his 900-acre ranch. He remained rooted in family and the land, and this kept him relatable to the voters in his district.

Sam Rayburn’s home outside of Bonham, Texas, was completed in 1916.
Timeline Activity: Half-Century of Public Service

25 minutes

In this activity, students will research to build a timeline of the presidents, major world events, and landmark legislation that Rayburn experience throughout his 48 years of public service. Students may use their textbooks, other references, and reputable online sources such as the White House Historical Association at www.whitehousehistory.org.

**Context:** Rayburn’s long political career meant he was involved in many historical events that impacted the nation beyond his term of service. In 1941 as Speaker of the House, Rayburn signed the Declaration of War leading the United States into World War II. One of his major accomplishments was expanding the House Rules Committee which paved the way for the success of many of JFK’s policies and legislative priorities such as the Civil Rights Act of 1963.

Distribute **Timeline Events and Timeline worksheets** and explain the assignment. Review results once all students have finished.

Follow-up discussion questions may include:

- What is the relationship between the executive branch of government and the legislative branch?
- How would a change in presidential leader (and political party) impact the work of the legislature?
- How can expected/unexpected world events affect the direction of legislation?

**Answer Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presidents</th>
<th>Major Events</th>
<th>Landmark Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)</td>
<td>World War I</td>
<td>Federal Reserve Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren G. Harding (1921-1923)</td>
<td>Teapot Dome scandals</td>
<td>Fordney-McCumber Tariff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)</td>
<td>Great Mississippi Flood</td>
<td>Indian Citizenship Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)</td>
<td>Great Depression</td>
<td>Emergency Relief and Construction Act</td>
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<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)</td>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>Social Security Act</td>
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<td>Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)</td>
<td>Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings</td>
<td>National Security Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)</td>
<td>Brown v Board of Education</td>
<td>Federal Aid Highway Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)</td>
<td>Cuban Missile Crisis</td>
<td>Civil Rights Act of 1963</td>
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Activity Resource: Timeline Events

Sam Rayburn served as a congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1913-1961, under eight presidents and throughout some of the most significant events of the 20th century.

The lists below are in random order. Sequence the presidents, major events, and landmark legislation below in chronological order on the Timeline Worksheet. You may use textbooks, other references, and reputable online sources such as the White House Historical Association at www.whitehousehistory.org.


Presidents (random order):
Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge

Major Events (random order):
Teapot Dome scandals, Great Depression, Cuban Missile Crisis, Brown v. Board of Education, World War I, Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Great Mississippi Flood, World War II

Landmark Legislation (random order):
A Half-Century of Public Service

Use references to sequence the presidents, events, and legislation from the Timeline of Events worksheet in chronological order in this graphic organizer.

- Mr. Sam was elected to the U.S. House in 1913
- Sam Rayburn built his home in

- 1913-1921 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1921-1923 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1923-1929 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1929-1933 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1933-1945 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1945-1953 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1953-1961 President
- Event
- Legislation

- 1961-1963 President
- Event
- Legislation

- Mr. Sam Speaker of the House 1940-1947
- Mr. Sam Speaker of the House 1949-1953
- Mr. Sam Speaker of the House 1955-1961
- Mr. Sam expands House Rules Committee
Assessment

Take-Home

Extensions

Additional Resources & Extensions

- Students should participate and printouts for completeness.

**Home Extension**

Have students create a **KWL Chart** to take home. Have them complete columns about Sam Rayburn. After completing eight stimuli complete the “What I Learned” column for each stimulus.

**Additional Resources & Extensions**

- Texas History
  - history.unt.edu
- Handbook of Texas Online
  - online.org/handbook
- United States Congress
  - congress.gov
The Sam Rayburn House State Historic Site is more than his family’s home--

- Garage
- Smokehouse
- Garden
- Tractor Shed
- Caretaker’s Cottage
- Chicken Coop
- Pump House
- Barn

Visit Sam Rayburn House
Visit Sam Rayburn House
Greetings from Collin County Historical Commission

We will continue discussing how your museum can be a gateway to primary resources.
Collin County Historical Commission

https://www.collincountytx.gov/historical_commission

- Preserve, educate, initiate programs
- Conduct programs & activities
- Mark, interpret, preserve, accumulate information on Collin County history and landmarks
CCHC Committees

- Grants
- Awards
- Cruise
- Film Preservation
- State Markers
- County Markers
- Speakers Bureau
- Educational Programs
- Tax Abatement
- Historic Assets
- Workshops
- Preservation Celebration
- Abandoned Cemeteries
- Media
- Finance
CCHC Works Directly with THC

- State Markers
- Workshops
- Cemeteries
- Abandoned Cemeteries

Melissa Cemetery
Historic Assets Survey

Collin County has initiated a project to locate and catalog any and all historic sites in the county. The survey is being conducted using the criteria of the National Registry of Historic Places and is the only county to undertake such a project on a county-wide basis.

The survey is conducted by members and volunteers and made available on the county’s GIS Interactive Map section of the web site, superimposed on Arial mapping visuals to provide the location of each site. By clicking on the site a visitor will get a specific location by address, GPS or a Universal Transverse Mercator.
Sites Include:

https://gis.collincountytx.gov/cchistorical/main.html

• Cemeteries
• Buildings
• Event locations
• Historically significant locations
• Schools
• Churches

Each site includes a narrative, bibliography, photograph if available, and the name of the writer. It does not include individual people.
Survey Map
Collin County Historical Commission

Salmons Farmstead, John Madison
Murphy, Texas

John Madison Salmons, born in Illinois in 1825, first came to Texas in 1845 with his father, James Salmons and two sisters. The family name Salmons appears on the tombstone; however, the name appears in many references in various forms such as Salmon, Salamon, or Salmon.

John Salmons first emerged in Collin County in the 1850 U.S. Census with his wife, Sarah Beck. His estate value was $1,200, and he was listed as a farmer. The Salmons' first owned land in the Plano town center, but sold the land to the Forman family before they moved to their farmstead east of Dublin Road.

They also owned land along Spring Creek, but their homestead was east of Dublin Road and north of FM 544. The family owned several dozen cattle and horses and grew feed for their livestock. Their log cabin was well hidden by a grove of trees about one-fourth mile from FM 544 and may have been originally the home of the Pegues family or Mary Scott who owned the first land survey. In later years the cabin was covered inside and out with lumber.

Salmons engaged William Gage to build him a saw mill and grist mill near Dublin Road and Rowlett Creek. The Dublin Mill became a gathering place for the community. His father-in-law, Sanford Beck, owned a distillery at Dublin and five wagons he used to haul timber to the mill. The county paid Salmons $26.28 for lumber to build the first bridge over Rowlett Creek and FM 544. In the 1860 Census, Salmons real estate was estimated at $2,500 and his personal estate at $1,500. Although he gave his profession as a farmer, he sold timber from his land and also owned and operated a saw mill and grist mill.

Salmons hired out his threshing machine to farmers for miles around. The thresher was used to cut wheat and oats for farm animals. Workers were fed from a cook shack that accompanied the threshers into the fields.
“Cruise” to Collin County to Visit History Museums

- Collin County History Museum
- Collin County Farm Museum
- Heard Natural Science Museum (has history as well)
- Heritage Farmstead Museum
- Interurban Railway Museum
- Museum of the American Railroad
- Frisco Heritage Museum
- Chestnut Square Historic Village
- Sachse Historical Society Museum (Collin/Dallas Counties)
This museum conjoins exhibits with technology. They received grants from the CCHC to purchase iPads.

Along with the exhibits you can scan the QR codes to see videos or hear stories or historical vignettes.

A new feature is the use of Augmented Reality. Simply point the iPad camera over the image and a historic overlay image is triggered so you can see the same scene as it appears today.
Educational Programs

• Collin County Digs—in order to continue we need more volunteers; so this may be put on hold this year
• Carry Along Collin—revamping this program; it has been on hold for the last several years
• Collin College—speaker for history classes about Collin County and HAS—we hope to grow this program
Collin McKinney’s Amazing Race

This program will roll out the summer of 2020. It is a summer program for students and their parents that invites students and parents to discover local history by visiting local museums and historical places in Collin County.

They will be given GPS coordinates and QR codes to locate the places to visit. All the details have not been worked out, but we are excited about the race.
Tri-Cities Historical Societies—we have some common history in our communities
Murphy Historical Society
Sachse Historical Society
Wylie Historical Society
Meet every 3 months for discussion of what is happening in our society.
October 2019 “Cotton: Farm to Market”
Venue: Sachse Historical Museum
Audience: Students 6 years to 5th grade from the 3 communities
Showcased: how cotton was planted, traveled by Farm to Market Roads and then to the Railroads
Cotton Crafts, Railroad Music, Farm Equipment, & exhibits (for the parents)
Program for 2020 is designed around Farm Machinery—this is in the planning stage
Tri-Cities Historical Societies’ Exhibits/Activities
Thank You for Attending

We hope our presentation was helpful and/or prompted thinking about your museum, the Texas Historical Commission, or local historical societies.

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