

# America in the 1950's

## Station Guide

### Post-World War II Domestic Issues

1. What were some of the advances made during WWII that would affect post-war America?

2. What were some of the hindrances to returning to "normal life" after the war?

### The Postwar Economy

3. In what ways did WWII contribute to the end of the Depression? (give details)

4. What factors affected the US economy in the years immediately after WWII? What impact did they have on the economy?

### The Late 1940s

5. What were some adjustments Americans made to adapt to the post WWII era?

### The Housing Boom

6. Explain the provisions of the GI Bill and how they played out in the post-war economy.

7. Describe the "Levittown" living experience? Do you think it played a role in creating the America you know today?

### The Age of the Automobile

8. What was the effect of developments in automobiles and transportation in the late 40's and early 50's?

### Truman's Administration

9. Describe some of the successes and failures of the Truman Administration.

10. What do you think was the reason behind and the effect of the Taft-Hartley Act?

### The 1948 Election

11. What were some of the challenges Truman faced in his bid for re-election in 1948?

12. What factors do you think led to Truman's victory in 1948?

13. What were the major developments of Truman's second term?

### The 1950's

14. Give examples supporting the claim that the "1950's were a decade of both stability and change."

### The Eisenhower Years

15. What were some challenges Eisenhower faced as he entered office in 1952?

16. Describe some of the changes that took place in America during the Eisenhower years.

#### Women's Roles

17. During WWII women were encouraged to participate in the workplace and over 200,000 even joined the military. What has changed by the 1950's in the expectations for women?

18. Why do you think these expectations changed?

#### The Late 1950's

18. What international developments shook America's sense of stability in the 1950's?

19. What steps did America take to respond to these international challenges?

20. Briefly describe the "good" and the "bad" of life in America in the 1950's

#### Individual reflection questions:

21. What accepted realities of daily life in today's world would have been difficult for post-war Americans to accept?

22. How did their experiences help pave the way for these realities?