# Pre-Visit Guide: Lesson 1 Grades 1-3

## Overview

This lesson is designed to familiarize students with historic sites, including what to expect when visiting, appropriate visitor behaviors, and what the layout of the site looks like.

## Social Studies TEKS

1st grade:

- (4) Geography. The student understands the purpose of geographic tools, including maps and globes. The student is expected to:
  - (A) create and use simple maps such as maps of the home, classroom, school, and community
- (10) Government. The student understands the purpose of rules and laws. The student is expected to:
  - (A) explain the purpose for rules and laws in the home, school, and community
- (17) Social studies skills. The student communicates in oral, visual, and written forms. The student is expected to:
  - (C) express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences;
  - (D) create and interpret visual and written material; and
  - (E) use social studies terminology correctly.

2nd grade:

- (3) Geography. The student uses simple geographic tools, including maps and globes. The student is expected to:
  - (A) identify and use information on maps and globes using basic map elements such as title, cardinal directions, and legend; and
- (4) Geography. The student understands the location of places in their community, state, country, and the world.
- (16) Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to:
  - (D) use social studies terminology correctly;
  - (E) express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences; and
  - (F) create written and visual material such as stories, maps, and graphic organizers to express ideas.

3rd grade:

- (4) Geography. The student understands the concepts of location, distance, and direction on maps and globes. The student is expected to:
  - (C) identify, create, and interpret maps of places that contain map elements, including a title, compass rose, legend, scale, and grid system
- (15) Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to:
  - (A) use social studies terminology correctly;
  - (D) express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences; and
  - (E) create written and visual material such as stories, pictures, maps, and graphic organizers to express ideas.

## Materials

- Copies of the student workbook
- Vocabulary list
- Activity resources

## Vocabulary

- **artifact:** objects that are made, used, or modified by humans
- **exhibit:** a public display in a museum
- **historian:** someone who writes about or is an expert on history
- **historic house:** a home that is connected to an important event or person, has a historic style, or can give important information
- **museum:** a building that holds a collection of objects that are found in nature or objects created by people
- **Texas Historical Commission:** a state agency that preserves Texas history

**Context:** Dwight David Eisenhower, nicknamed "Ike," was born in 1890 in the railroad town of Denison, Texas. His family lived in Denison for three years before returning to Kansas where Eisenhower grew up with his five brothers. His family was not well-connected to powerful people nor were they wealthy. The Eisenhower Birthplace includes a Visitor's Center with information about Eisenhower and his life, a statue of Eisenhower, and the house Eisenhower was born in.

## Activity: Welcome to Our Historic House

*30 minutes*

Hello students! I'm the Texas Historical Commission's exclamation point and it's my job to help you prepare for your visit to one of our historic sites.

What is the Texas Historical Commission? It's a state agency created to protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations. The Commission operates 34 historic sites across the state of Texas.

Let's look at the place you will be visiting soon: Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site. This site is in Denison, Texas. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in the house on October 14, 1890. When Dwight was a baby, the site was part of a neighborhood. Today, the site is a large park with several buildings, including the birthplace.

On the next pages are pictures of some of the places and things you will see on your visit. Each picture has some information to help you understand what you will be learning about when you come for your visit.

# EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

STATE HISTORIC SITE

*Denison, Texas*

This building is the Visitor's Center. It's the first building visitors see when they arrive at the site. The has the site's exhibits and the museum store. When you visit this building, you will learn about President Eisenhower and how the birthplace became a historic house/museum.

What are some facts you already know about President Eisenhower?

Ask your teacher what their favorite Eisenhower fact is.

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# EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

STATE HISTORIC SITE

*Denison, Texas*

This is the Red Building or Red Store. In 1890 when Dwight was born, this building was a general store. General stores sold a variety of items including food, fabric, and more, to people who lived in the area. Today this building is used for events and has most of the staff's offices.

What do you think the Eisenhower family bought at a general store? Are the items similar or different from what you buy today?

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STATE HISTORIC SITE

*Denison, Texas*

This building was added much later than the other ones. It has our restrooms and picnic area.

You will see this statue when you travel from the Visitor's Center towards the house. It's a statue of Ike! Five of these statues were created. The other four are in Abilene, Kansas, West Point, and the countries of England and France.

Try your own five-star general pose!

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In 1890 when Dwight was born, tracks for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad ran just 30 feet (about the same length as two cars) from the front door of his house!

Can you imagine how loud the train would be? The trains during this time used coal. This means they would spew smoke and soot every time they went by the house. Do you think the outside of the house stayed clean?

This is the birthplace of Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was born in the downstairs bedroom. His parents and two of his brothers lived in the house together. Dwight's parents also rented part of the home to a man named James Redman and his wife. Both Dwight's father David and renter James worked for the MKT Railway.

## Activity: Map Skills Activity

*15 minutes*

This is a map of the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site. Use your map reading skills and follow the instructions to complete this activity.

1. Find the Birthplace house on the map and draw a circle around it.
2. Draw a line from the Visitor's Center to the Birthplace house.
3. Draw a box around the area where you can rest and use the bathroom.
4. Write the names of two buildings you have not drawn shapes around.

_____

## Activity: Traffic Lights

*15 minutes*

When you visit a museum, historic house, or other historic place, there will be actions that you can and cannot do. This traffic light will help you know which actions you can do while visiting.

**Sitting on or touching artifacts.**

**Eating or drinking inside the buildings.**

**Looking closer at exhibits and artifacts.**

**Taking pictures.**

**Asking questions.**

**Participating in activities.**

**Exploring history.**

# EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

STATE HISTORIC SITE

*Denison, Texas*

## Pre-Visit Quiz: Test What You've Learned

1. What is the name of the historic site you will be visiting?

   _____

2. How many of the five Ike statues will you see during your visit? _____

3. What was located 30 feet away from the Birthplace House? _____

4. Which of these is a green light (something that is always okay to do) activity?

   A. Asking questions
   B. Eating or drinking inside the buildings
   C. Looking closer at an exhibit or artifact
   D. Taking pictures

5. Draw a line to match the building with its name:

Red Store/Building

Visitor's Center

Birthplace House

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STATE HISTORIC SITE

*Denison, Texas*

## Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

## Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 903-465-8908.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at http://visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com.

## Contact Us

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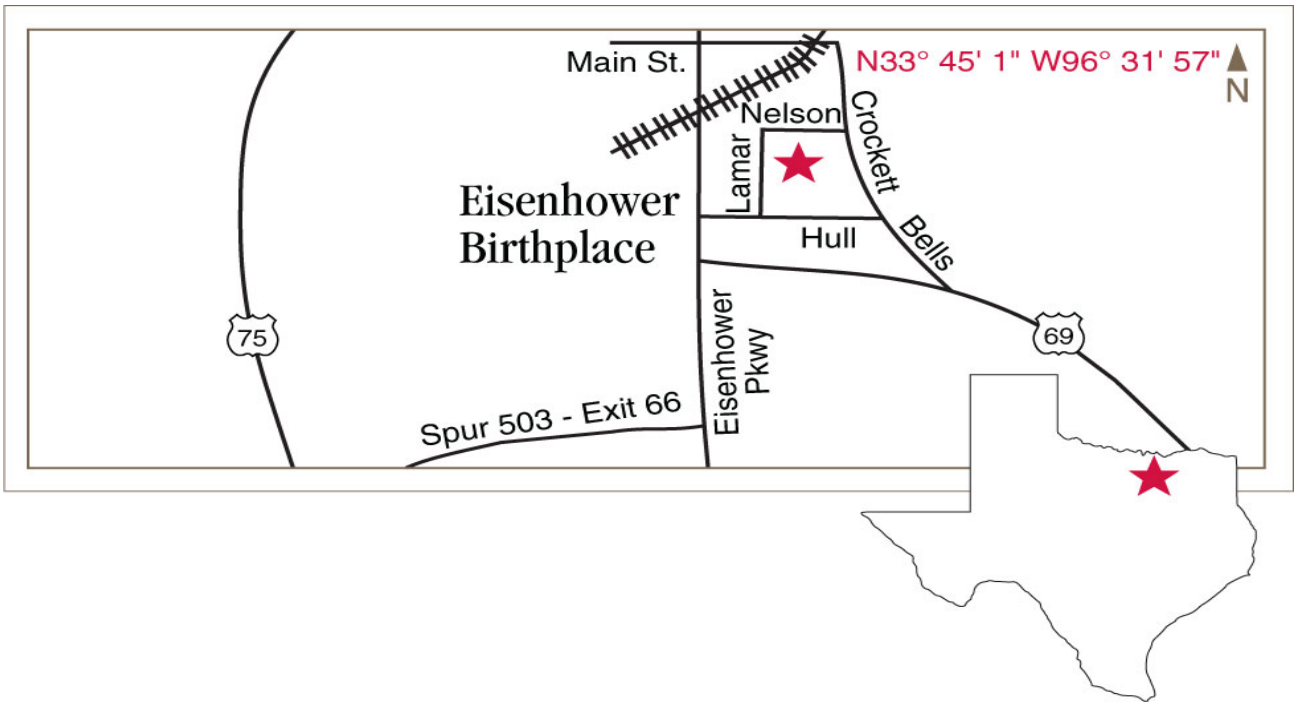


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