

# EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

*Denison, Texas*

## On-Site Activity

Grade 5

### Leadership Primary Source Investigation

In this activity, students will examine and sort primary source documents that characterize Eisenhower's four leadership qualities of honesty, determination, self-reliance, and hard work.

- Review the leadership qualities that Dwight D. Eisenhower exhibited throughout his personal, military, and political life. Explain that in this activity, students will examine Eisenhower's personal documents, historic photos, and Eisenhower's own words to determine how these primary sources reflect his leadership qualities of honesty, determination, self-reliance, and hard work.
- Review the definition of a primary source.
- Divide the students into small groups or pairs. Distribute a **set of primary source documents** and a **graphic organizer** to each group/pair. Explain the activity. Tell students that although each primary source may represent more than one leadership quality, they are to choose the quality they think is **most** represented.
- When the activity is complete, share all responses. Follow up with questions about any primary sources that might have been interpreted under multiple categories.
  - Why did you choose to sort that resources into that leadership quality category?
  - What does multiple categorization tell us about how primary sources can be interpreted?

Answer Key (though choices may vary):

- determination: Eisenhower diploma, Order of the Day photograph
- honesty: "worst disaster" quote, postcard
- hard work: "physical work" quote, Eisenhower feeding chickens photograph
- self-reliance: "For my plot" quote, Belle Springs Creamery photograph

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## Eisenhower's Leadership: Primary Source Graphic Organizer

Put a ✓ under the category of leadership quality you think each source **most** represents. Choose only one category for each source. Write the reason for your choice.

SOURCE	LEADERSHIP QUALITIES				REASON
	determination	honesty	hard work	self reliance	
					This source represents this leadership quality because...
feeding chickens photo					
high school diploma					
“worst disaster” quote					
“For my plot” quote					
baseball postcard					
Orders of the Day photo					
“physical work” quote					
Belle Springs Creamery photo					

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## Primary Source Photograph: Orders of the Day- Full Victory, Nothing Else

CREDIT: U.S. Army. "Dwight Eisenhower giving orders to American paratroopers in England." 1944 June 6. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress



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**Primary Source Photograph: Eisenhower brothers feeding chickens**



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**Primary Source Photograph: Eisenhower's high school diploma**



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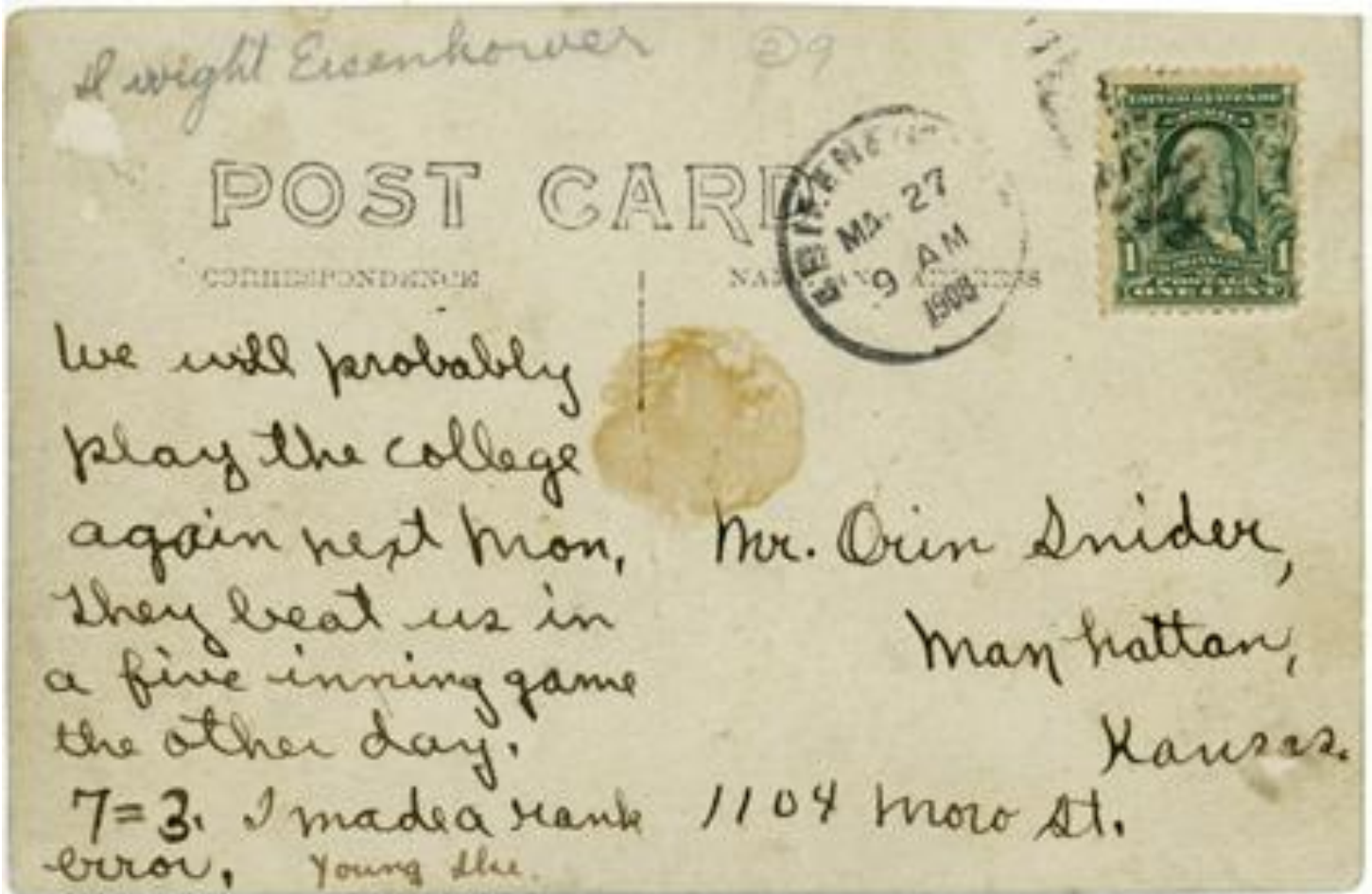
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**Primary Source Photograph: Eisenhower postcard to baseball coach**



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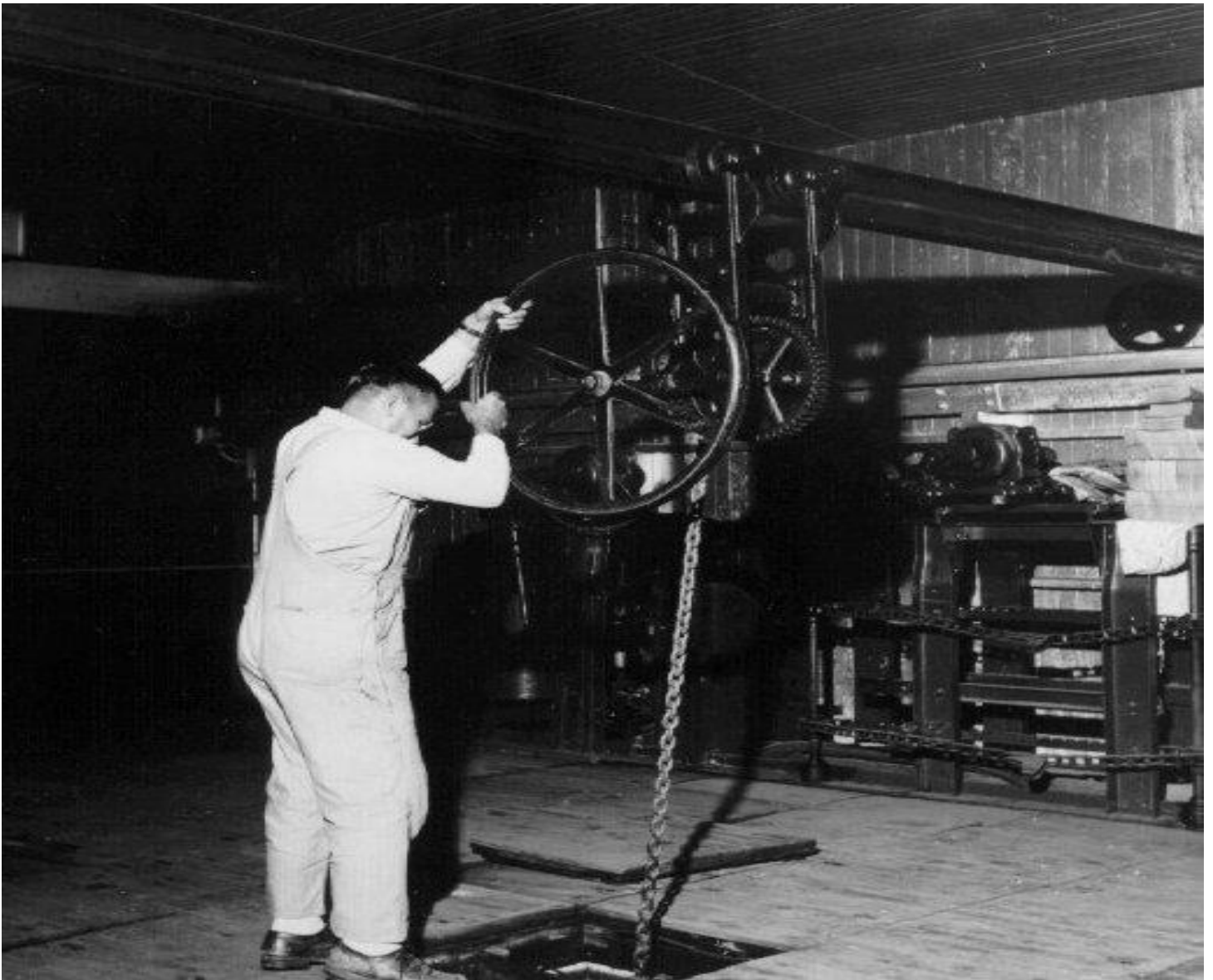
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## Primary Source Photograph: Belle Springs Creamery



After he graduated from high school in 1909, Dwight worked alongside his father and uncle at Belle Springs Creamery. Dwight and his brother Edgar made a deal to take turns alternately attending school and working two years to pay the other's tuition since family funds were not available.

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## Primary Source: Eisenhower Quotes

*“Father understood our wants, in fact our desperate need for playtime’s implements and accessories. He allotted each boy a bit of ground out of the land surrounding our house. Each was privileged to raise any kind of vegetables he chose and to sell them, if possible, to the neighbors for a profit... For my plot, I chose to grow sweet corn and cucumbers. I had made inquiries and decided that these were the most popular vegetables. I liked the thought that I was earning something on my own—and could keep it or spend it on myself...”*

p. 70-71 *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends* by Dwight D. Eisenhower

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*“...the worst disaster of my life, the one I have never been able to forget completely.”*

The Eisenhowers lost their first son, Doud Dwight, to scarlet fever at the age of three.

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*“Physical work was done by almost every male. The capitalists of town were no less immune than the poorest. They spent hours each week in currying horses or greasing the axles of a buggy, in managing a base-burner and sifting unburned coal from its ashes.”*

p.80 *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends* by Dwight D. Eisenhower

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