

# ★ THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL ★ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

## ★ SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOR EXHIBIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ★

1) Answers would include, but are not limited to, the fact that President and Mrs. Reagan loved the outdoors and anything that is ranch-oriented, i.e., horses, cattle, etc. Reagan owned two ranches during his life. His second ranch in Rancho Del Cielo, in the Santa Ynez Valley is a place he and Mrs. Reagan vacationed at frequently during his presidency. Reagan also starred in many Westerns during his Hollywood days. The architecture is ranch style and reflects a warm and welcoming presence. The surroundings also reflect his belief in rugged individualism, which he espoused during his life and presidency, as the library is situated away from commercial property and surrounded by rugged, yet beautiful topography.

2) During the construction of the Library and Museum, President Reagan visited the site and noticed the walls of the Oval Office exhibit were too short, so the builders reconstructed the exhibit and had to excavate the area a few feet deep to accommodate the actual size of the office. The West Wing of the White House was constructed during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt to accommodate the growth of the White House staff, and TR was the first president to use the oval office. America's eighteenth president Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio is the first U.S. president to use the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office. The desk in the Oval Office at the Reagan Library and Museum is a museum-quality replica of the Hayes desk. In 1880, The Queen of England, Queen Victoria, presented this desk to President Hayes as a gift. The desk is made of Oak timbers from the British ship H.M.S. Resolute. President Reagan put the oak/walnut hardwood floor in the Oval Office in 1981, because the cork floor from his predecessors was damaged from wear and tear. President Eisenhower was an avid golfer left cleat marks from his golf shoes after practicing golf swings on the South Lawn.

3) The President holds televised addresses and press conferences in the Oval Office because the office symbolizes the presidency, it is where the president makes his major decisions, and meets with heads of state and other cabinet members. The answer to the president's difficult or challenging decision is open-ended and can relate to both foreign and domestic policy.