

UTAH

HISTORY

Native nations, Spanish explorers, fur trappers, pioneers, miners and railroad builders each helped make Utah.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Utah for more than 10,000 years. Long ago, the Fremont people and the Ancestral Puebloans grew corn here. The Ancestral Puebloans built stone homes in the canyons. Later the Ute, Shoshone, Goshute, Southern Paiute and Navajo lived on this land. They hunted deer and rabbits, fished, and gathered seeds and pine nuts.

Explorers and Trappers

In 1776, two Spanish priests named Dominguez and Escalante led a small group into Utah Valley. They were looking for a way to California. In the 1820s, fur trappers came for beaver and traded with the Ute and Shoshone. Jim Bridger reached the Great Salt Lake. The city of Provo is named for the trapper Etienne Provost.



The Pioneers Arrive

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, often called Mormons, had been forced out of Missouri and Illinois after conflicts with their neighbors. They wanted a place far away to live and worship their own way. Brigham Young led the first **pioneers** into the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. They dug **irrigation** ditches to bring creek water to dry fields. They founded hundreds of towns. In 1853, they began the Salt Lake Temple. It took 40 years to finish. In 1848, the United States won a war with Mexico and took this land. Congress made Utah a **territory** in 1850.

Wars With the Ute

As towns spread onto Ute hunting land, fighting broke out. In 1853, Ute fighters led by Wakara raided towns and took cattle. Settlers built forts and fought back. Wakara and Brigham Young made peace in 1854. In the Black Hawk War, from 1865, Ute fighters raided towns and ranches and killed settlers. Settler soldiers killed Ute people too. Most Utes in central Utah moved to the Uintah **reservation** in the northeast. Ute, Navajo, Paiute, Shoshone and Goshute tribes have their own governments in Utah today.



Rails and Mines

In 1869, the railroads met at Promontory Summit. Ogden grew into a busy railroad town. Trains carried in mining machines and carried out metal. Miners found silver near Park City and copper at Bingham Canyon. In 1906, a company began digging copper there in a giant open pit. Workers came from Greece, Italy, Japan and other lands.

Statehood and Growth

Congress would not make Utah a state while the church allowed plural marriage, a man having more than one wife. Church leader Wilford Woodruff ended the practice in 1890. Utah became the 45th state on January 4, 1896. In the 1900s, dams stored water for farms and cities. Zion became a national park in 1919. Salt Lake City held the Winter Olympics in 2002.

UTAH THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Wakara	Ute leader in the Walker War
Brigham Young	Led the pioneers to Utah in 1847
John Wesley Powell	Explored the Green and Colorado rivers by boat in 1869
Martha Hughes Cannon	Doctor elected to the Utah senate in 1896
Philo Farnsworth	Utah-born inventor of electronic TV

WORDS TO KNOW

pioneer	one of the first people to settle a new place
irrigation	bringing water to crops through ditches or pipes
territory	U.S. land that is not yet a state
reservation	land kept by a Native nation for its people