

## Utah Topic Ideas for National History Day

When you're thinking of ideas for your History Day project, be sure to consider Utah history. Why? When you choose a local topic, you're likely to find a wealth of primary resources right on your doorstep. Here are some great ideas for topics with a Utah angle.

### Explorers, Travel, and Trade in Early Utah

- Rivera Expedition
- Dominguez-Escalante Expedition
- Shoshone, Paiute, Ute, Gosiute, Navajo Trade Networks – The Old Spanish Trail
- Trappers and the Fur Trade
- James Beckwourth, African-American Fur Trader
- Jim Bridger
- Peter Skene Ogden
- Etienne Provost
- Jedediah Smith
- John Weber
- The Donner-Reed Party
- John C. Fremont
- Miles Goodyear
- Stansbury Expedition (UHQ)
- Gunnison Expedition
- Simpson Expedition
- Pony Express
- John Wesley Powell
- Hole-in-the-Rock Trek
- John Macomb

### Science and Technology in Utah History

- Women inventors in Utah Territory (UHQ)
- John Wesley Powell's Geographic Surveys
- Paleontology and Utah's Dinosaur Rush (UHQ)
- Dr. John Widtsoe – Father of Dry Farming
- Invention of the Television, Philo T. Farnsworth
- Thiokol and the Exploration of Space
- The Artificial Heart
- The Dirty Harry Nuclear Test, Nevada Test Site
- The Downwinders
- Utah's Missile Launch Sites (UHQ)
- Exploring Speed on the Salt Flats
- Digital Pathbreakers: WordPerfect and Novell

## Utah's Diverse Cultures

- Native American Histories
  - Washakie
  - Ouray
  - Tabby-To-Kwana
  - Utes and Settlers in Utah Valley
  - Walkara and the Walker War
  - Black Hawk War and Circleville Massacre
  - Reservation Life
  - Indian Boarding Schools in Utah
  - Urban Indian Communities
- Mormon Histories
  - Immigrant communities
  - Mormon colonization of Deseret
  - Native American-Mormon Relations in Early Utah
  - Mormon United Orders/communitarianism
  - Zions Cooperative Mercantile Institution
  - Mormon-Gentile Relations in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Utah
  - Mormon-Federal Encounters & Exchange - The Utah War, Polygamy, Statehood
  - The Reed-Smoot Hearings – an encounter over Mormon polygamy
  - Colonel Thomas Kane
- Railroad Communities and Cultures
  - Chinese workers and communities
  - Corinne – A Railroad Town in Mormon Utah
  - Legacy of the Golden Spike
  - Robert Brewster Stanton's Railroad
- Mining in Utah – Work, Trade, and Workers' Rights
  - Carbon County – Cultural Crossroads
  - Bingham Canyon Mining Communities
  - Thomas Kearns
  - Labor unions in Utah - United Mine Workers, Western Federation of Miners, National Miner's Union, United Steelworkers of America,
  - Joe Hill and the IWW
  - Utah Copper/Bingham Canyon Strike of 1912
  - Winter Quarters Mine Disaster
- African-American communities
- Jewish communities
  - Samuel & Frederick Auerbach, Utah retailers
  - Simon Bamberger, Utah Governor
  - Benjamin Brown
  - Clarion, a Jewish colony
- Greek communities
  - Leonidas Skliris, padrone
  - Georgia Magerou, midwife
- Italian communities
- Scandinavian communities

- Japanese communities
- Pacific Islanders and the Iosepa Settlement
- Latino people & culture
- War brides in Utah
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Refugee Communities
- Intellectuals & the Arts
  - The Salt Lake Theater
  - Bernard DeVoto
  - Wallace Stegner

### Depression and Wartime in Utah

- Wartime industry & mobilization
- German internees at Fort Douglas
- Topaz Japanese Internment Camp
- Marriner S. Eccles, architect of the New Deal
- Col. Gail Halvorsen, the Candy Bomber
- The Civilian Conservation Corps
- Postwar reintegration

### Civil Rights in Utah

- Woman Suffrage and the Mormons
- Kanab's All-Woman Town Council of 1912 (UHQ)
- ERA: The Equal Rights Amendment and Women's Rights in Utah
- Stephen Holbrook and Utah's NAACP (UHRC)
- Mormonism and African-Americans
- Race Riots and BYU Athletics (UHQ)
- Adoption of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in Utah
- SOCIO: Spanish Speaking Organization for Community, Integrity, and Opportunity & Armando Solorzano

### Tourism

- Berg Halstrom and River Rafting in Utah
- Ski Utah!
- International Peace Garden
- Goblin Valley
- The Lincoln Highway
- Utah's Highway 89
- Utah's National Parks
- Dr. Arthur Leroy Inglesby (UHRC)
- Everett Ruess – Canyon Country Explorer
- David D. Rust (1874–1963) – Canyon Country Guide

## Environmental History

- Echo Park Dam Controversy
- Glen Canyon Dam/Colorado River Storage Act (1956)
- CUP: The Central Utah Project
- Ranchers, Rangelands, and Grazing
- Grand Staircase and the Federal Antiquities Act
- Environmentalists and engineers in Cache Valley, 1965-1990s (UHQ)
- Sagebrush Rebellion/Wise Use Movement
- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in Utah
- Wilderness in Utah: SUWA, roadless debates
- Edward Abbey: activist/author, *Desert Solitaire*
- Mormons and the MX Missile

## **KEY**

UHQ ***Utah Historical Quarterly***

UHRC **Utah State History Research Center** – Search the combined resources of the Utah State Historical Society and Utah State Archives: <http://heritage.utah.gov/history/research-center>

**Tip:** Introductory information on many of these topics can be found in our online encyclopedia of Utah history – **History To Go** ( <http://historytogo.utah.gov> )