

# UTAH HISTORY TOPIC IDEAS

## Why consider a Utah topic?

- Explore the history that shaped your community.
- Investigate a local angle that connects to national or world events.
- Consult [Utah History To Go](#) for introductory articles on many of these topics.
- Look for primary sources online at the [Utah History Research Center](#).
- Click on hyperlinked topics to find credible secondary sources in the [Utah Historical Quarterly](#) or [primary source sets](#) from the Utah Division of State History.
- You could **win \$500** at State! The top Utah history projects receive the Glen and Caroline Miner Prize for Utah History each year.

### Early Utah

Shoshone, Ute, Goshute, Paiute, and Navajo  
Communities & Intertribal Relations

Dominguez-Escalante Expedition

Old Spanish Trail Trade Networks

Rivera Expedition

[Fur Trade](#)

Explorers, Trappers, Traders:

Jim Bridger, Peter Skene Ogden, Etienne  
Provost, Jedediah Smith, John Weber, John C.  
Fremont, Miles Goodyear, James Beckwourth  
(African American)

Expeditions: [Stansbury](#), Gunnison, Simpson  
Pony Express

### Native Americans in the Time of Settlement

Bear River Massacre & Legacy

[Black Hawk War](#), [Circleville Massacre](#)

Indian Boarding Schools in Utah

Native Leaders: Pocatello, Bear Hunter,  
Sagwich, Ouray, Tabby-to-Kwanah, Washakie,  
Walkara

Reservation Life

Urban Indian Communities

Utes and Settlers in Utah Valley

Walker War

### Mormon Histories

Mormon Migration, Settlement of Deseret  
Struggle for Statehood, Colonel Thomas Kane  
Hole-in-the-Rock Trek

[Mountain Meadows Massacre](#)

Polygamy: [Reed-Smoot Hearings](#), Women's  
histories

The Utah War

### Railroad Communities and Cultures

[Transcontinental Railroad](#), [Legacies of the  
Golden Spike](#)

Chinese Railroad Workers

### Mining Communities, Strikes, & Disasters

[Carbon County](#), [Bingham Canyon](#), Park City

Thomas Kearns

Joe Hill and the IWW

[Bingham Canyon Strike of 1912](#)

Mine Disasters: [Winter Quarters](#), Scofield

### Immigrants & Ethnic Communities in Utah

[African-American](#) Communities & [Leaders](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Greek](#)

Italian

Japanese Immigrants

[Jewish Communities](#), Governor Bamberger,  
Auerbach's Department Store, Benjamin  
Brown, Clarion

[Latinx](#) Communities, [Great Depression](#),  
[Leaders](#)

Pacific Islanders, [Iosepa colony](#)

Refugee Communities

[Scandinavian](#) Communities

War Brides

Your Community!

## **World Wars, Great Depression**

[World War I in Utah](#)

[WWI German internees at Fort Douglas](#)

Marriner S. Eccles, New Deal Architect

[The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah](#)

WWII Industries: Tooele Army Depot, Hill AFB,  
Manti Parachute Factory

Wendover and the Atomic Bomb

[Women during WWII](#)

[Japanese Incarceration at Topaz](#)

Col. Gail Halvorsen, the Candy Bomber

## **Science and Technology**

[John Wesley Powell's Geographic Surveys](#)

[Paleontology: Utah's Dinosaur Rush](#)

John Widtsoe, Father of Dry Farming

Philo T. Farnsworth, Inventor of Television

Women inventors in Utah Territory

[Thiokol](#) and the Exploration of Space

The Artificial Heart

Downwinders, [Nevada Test Site](#)

[Utah's Missile Launch Sites](#)

Salt Flats and the Need for Speed

Digital Pathbreakers: WordPerfect and Novell

## **Civil Rights**

Women's Suffrage – First to Vote

[Kanab's All-Woman Town Council](#)

The Equal Rights Amendment in Utah

[Utah's NAACP](#)

Mormonism and African-Americans

[Race Riots and BYU Athletics](#)

Adoption of the Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday in Utah

SOCIO: Spanish Speaking Organization for  
Community, Integrity, and Opportunity &  
Armando Solorzano

## **Environmental History**

Echo Park Dam Controversy

Glen Canyon Dam/Colorado River Storage Act

The Central Utah Project (CUP)

Ranchers, Rangelands, and Grazing

Sagebrush Rebellion

MX Missile Controversy

NAGPRA: The Native American Graves  
Protection and Repatriation Act in Utah

Public Lands in Utah: National Parks &  
Monuments, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of  
Land Management, State Parks

Grand Staircase & the Federal Antiquities Act

Wilderness Activists: SUWA, Edward Abbey

## **Tourism & Recreation in Utah**

Saltair Resort

Berg Halstrom and River Rafting in Utah

Ski Utah!

International Peace Garden

Goblin Valley

Utah's National Parks

Dr. Arthur Leroy Inglesby

Everett Ruess, Canyon Country Explorer

David D. Rust, Canyon Country Guide

2002 Olympics