



PONY EXPRESS



Utah History Timeline (Grade 4)

Utah's physical geography has a direct impact on the cultures of the people who have inhabited it throughout time.

Focus on the major physical geographic attributes of Utah, how geography affects humans and how human actions modify the physical environment

Explorers and trappers were some of the first Europeans to enter Utah.

Focus on the historical and current impact of the early explorers and trappers.

Miners and workers who were working on the transcontinental railroad were some of the first non-Mormons to settle in Utah.

Focus on the historical and current impact of the miners and railroad workers.

There were key events and trends in Utah history that formed our state.

Focus on westward expansion, statehood, development of industry, World War I and II. Compare historical experiences with today's immigrants.

Students need to understand the roles of civic life, politics, and government in their lives.

Focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens, today and historically (Chinese railroad workers, Greek miners, women, children, Mormons, Japanese Americans at Topaz, American Indians and African-Americans).



Geography



Explorers/
trappers



Miners/
railroad
workers



Key events in
Utah's history



Civic life/
government



Before any explorers or others came into Utah, the American Indians lived here.

Focus on the historical and current impact American Indians had and have on Utah.



The Mormon pioneers were the first Europeans to colonize the state of Utah in 1847.

Focus on the historical and current impact of the Mormon pioneers.



The railroad and other interests brought in many diverse groups who settled in Utah.

Focus on Latinos, Polynesians, Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, African-Americans, Middle Easterners and others historical and current impact.



The economy of Utah has gone from being farming-based to industry and tourism-based.

Focus on the development of Utah's economy over time and the factors that bring about economic change.



Utah's government has been organized in different ways over time.

Focus on historic and current American Indian government, State of Deseret, Utah Territory, statehood era, present.

Please put a timeline up in your classroom so students are able to see the important events and eras in Utah's history.

Standards in 4th grade Utah history

1. Geography:

Lesson 11: Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms (**Guided Reading Level: P, Lexile 890**) and **Lesson 12:** Twisters (**Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile 860**). Using these lessons in conjunction with the geography standard will give kids an understanding of these two forces of nature. Be sure to indicate that hurricanes don't happen in Utah and twisters are very rare. The focus of this standard is the major physical attributes of Utah so make sure they know the main lakes, rivers and mountain ranges. The national parks should also be located on a Utah map.

Also help students understand how geography affects humans and how humans have modified our environment in Utah.

Lesson 12: The Earth Dragon Awakes (**Guided Reading Level: P, Lexile: 770**) is the story of the great San Francisco earthquake. The essential question: How do natural disasters affect people? Might be a good one to discuss during this unit. Also, this story could relate to the Chinese miners and railroad workers who immigrated to Utah.

2. Native Americans: Focus on the historical and current impact American Indians had and have on Utah.

3. Explorers/trappers

Lesson 9: Field Guide to Snakes of the Southwest (**Guided Reading Level: R, Lexile 740**). Being an early explorer was a dangerous job. Often they came across snakes on their journeys. This lesson on snakes could lead into a more in-depth look at the life of an explorer.

This standard focuses on the historical and current impact of the early explorers and trappers. They were some of the first Europeans to enter Utah.

4. Mormon pioneers/settlers: Focus on the historical and current impact of the Mormon pioneers.

5. Miners/railroad workers: Miners and workers who were working on the transcontinental railroad were some of the first non-Mormons to settle in Utah. Focus on the historical and current impact of the miners and railroad works. *Also, Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep is a great read-aloud story for your 4th graders.*

6. Other ethnic groups:

Lesson 5: Stormalong (**Guided Reading Level: O, Lexile: 900**) and Hoderi the Fisherman (**Guided Reading Level: Q, Lexile: NP**) are examples of a tall tale and a folktale. Neither of these refers to Utah in any way, but Utah is filled with tall tales and folktales. These might lead the way into a discussion of this kind of story telling.

The focus in this standard is on the impact Latinos, Polynesians, Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, African-Americans, Middle Easterners and other groups had and have on our state.

7. Key events in Utah's history

Lesson 6: The History of Radio (**Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile 830**). Philo T. Farnsworth, a Utahn, was the inventor of the television. This story might be related to his contribution to Utah.

8. Utah's economy:

Lesson 4: The Kid's Guide to Money (**Guided Reading Level: R, Lexile: 890**). This story will help students understand the money system to lead into a discussion of Utah's economy.

Lesson 25: Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions (**Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile 1110**). This story could be used during the economy standard or in standard 7 when learning about key events. Even though this story is not about Utah, it might help students to understand the idea of inventions.

9. Civic life/government

Lesson 22, I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote (**Guided Reading Level: S, Lexile: 760**). Women getting the vote is an important in Utah history. Utah women were the first to get the right to vote. This story goes hand in hand with the website Better Days 2020 which focuses on Utah women getting the vote. This would be appropriate during a discussion of statehood.

Lesson 22, The Role of the Constitution (**Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile: 810**). Utah has it's own Constitution. Students could learn what a constitution is with this reading and then look specifically at the Utah Constitution.

10. Before and after statehood:

Other books that might be used with 4th grade Utah Studies students:

American Indian standard:

Bear Dancer, Fictional story of Elk Girl, sister of Chief Ouray (of the Ute tribe). The story details her life in the Ute tribe and when captured by the Sioux, the life she then has as a slave on the Great Plains. This book shows the conflict when American Indians encountered the white military and settlers.

Pia Toya: A Goshute Indian Legend. This picture book is a Goshute (Utah Indian) legend retold and illustrated by the children and teachers of Ibapah (Utah) Elementary School. Very colorful and easy to read.

Canyons. Historical fiction that tells the story of two boys, separated by time (one current day, one Apache from 100 years ago) who face challenges by which they will become men. The juxtaposition of the two stories makes fun reading for good 4th grade readers. (Need to be pretty good readers for this one, or read this to your class).

Kokopelli's Flute. Historical fiction for a good reader. Tep Jones lives near an Anasazi cliff dwelling who finds a bone flute left behind by grave robbers. He falls under the spell of a powerful ancient magic that traps him at night in the body of an animal.

Explorer's standard:

Mountain Men: True Grit and Tall Tales. This beautifully illustrated picture book details the life of an explorer/mountain man. There are fun stories and pictures of John Colter, Jedediah Smith, Hugh Glass, Jim Bridger, Mike Fink, Kit Carson, and Jim Beckwourth, several of whom passed through Utah

Mormon Pioneers/Settlers standard:

I Walked to Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers on the Mormon Trail. Primary sources of life on the trail to Utah.

Growing Up in Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers Building the Kingdom. Primary sources of life in early Utah.

Pioneer Sisters. A simple scholastic book that could be read by a 4th grader. This tells the story of three little girls (Laura Ingalls Wilder) living on the prairie.

Key Events in Utah standard:

The Thirsty Moose, Based on a Native American Folktale. This picture book tells a folktale of a moose and his relationship with other animals.

It Happened In Utah. This little book has fun stories from the driving of the golden spike to the glories of the Olympics, it highlights 28 events that shaped the history of Utah. This would be used by teachers to just tell students stories.

Ride Like the Wind: A Tale of the Pony Express. A picture book that shows the courage and life of the young Pony Express riders.

The Railroad: Life in the Old West. Picture book well-illustrated on the life of a transcontinental railroad worker.

Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad 1830-1870. A National Geographic book that gives great pictures that explain the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Women get the vote (before and after statehood): Better Days 2020 website has great lessons and resources. Go to: <https://www.betterdays2020.com/>

The Unbreakable Code. This beautifully illustrated picture book is the story of a Navajo grandfather who tells his grandson about his work during WWII as a Navajo Code Talker.

Baseball Saved Us. Picture book about life for young boys inside the Topaz internment camp for Japanese-Americans during WWII.

The Bracelet. A companion piece to the Baseball Saved Us book, this picture book is told from a young girl's perspective as a Japanese-American internee.