

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. And remember, the Utah Division of State History is here to help you succeed!

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
 - Walkara and the Walker War
 - Black Hawk War and Circleville Massacre
 - Reservation Life
 - Indian Boarding Schools in Utah
- 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 19th 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 immigrants & culture
- War brides in Utah
- 20th 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>)