

# Settlement of Utah

# Objective

- Students will understand the characteristics of the settlement of Utah.

# Westward Expansion: The Gold Rush

- While the newly arrived Mormon pioneers were struggling to get enough food to survive, Gold was discovered in California leading to the 1849 Gold Rush.
- Over 25,000 swarmed to California that year, 50,000 the next; Tens of thousands of them passing through Salt Lake City.
- Rush impacted the economy in the Great Basin as supplies were traded, livestock purchased and grain ground.
- The thousands of miners traveling through Utah during the gold rush is a good example of the term “crossroads of the West.” Today, major roads, rail lines, and air traffic going east and west, north and south, cross in Salt Lake City.

# Settlement Problems

- Unfamiliar environment: The land was fertile but very dry. Any trees or crops had to be planted and watered. In other places rain had watered the crops.
- Isolated: Distanced from the rest of the world, with no fast communication to the East.

# Settlement Problems con't

- Native Americans: The land they were living on was inhabited and the Indians saw them as intruders. This caused problems for both groups.
- Immigrants: Every year thousands of new immigrants of different cultures and languages arrived with no money, homes, or jobs. Everyone had to work together to build a community.

# Building a New Home in the West

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- Three important tasks:
  1. Planting
  2. Building
  3. Exploring

# What a Mormon Settlement Looked Like.

- Mormon settlements were very uniquely similar. As Brigham Young sent out settlers they were supposed to make their settlements look a certain way.



# 5 Features of a Utah Settlement



- 1. Streets laid out in a grid pattern. They were oriented North to South and East to West.
- 2. Very wide streets with irrigation ditches ran beside most streets.



- 3. City blocks that were 4 acres in size, for homes and gardens.
- 4. Public buildings and parks in the center of town.
- 5. Farmland outside of the city, surrounded with tall poplar trees.





# Why not just Salt Lake?

- Mormon towns were built in different locations for many different reasons.
- What would some of those reasons be?
- During the first 10 years 100 different settlements were created in Utah, Idaho, Arizona, and Nevada.



# Gentile Towns

- Not all settlements were created by the Mormons.
- With the coming of the U.S Army, railroad, mining, and other services came gentile groups.
- What was a gentile?



- A Gentile was a person living or settling in Utah that was non-Mormon.
- The “Gentile Capital of Utah” was the city of Corinne, near Promontory Point.
- Many of these cities were created around the railroad or mines.

# Religious/ Foreign Immigrants

- Many other religions moved in as well such as:
  - Protestants and Catholics
- Many foreign immigrants also came to Utah either religiously, for job opportunities, or freedom.







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## Paintings of Manti tell a story: Paintings are a source that historians use to understand the past.



- These two paintings offer insight into the time period of Utah's settlement by Mormon pioneers. C.C.A. Christensen, a Danish artist, created the paintings. Christensen studied art in Copenhagen. He immigrated to Utah by ship from Liverpool, then handcart to Utah.

1. What details in both paintings tell you about daily life?
2. If you were a historian who had these paintings to study, what observations would you make about how life changed for the people in this area?
3. Would you consider these paintings primary sources or secondary sources? Why?

