Early Utah

Utah is located in the Southwest region of the United States. It was admitted to the Union as the 45th state on January 4, 1896. Utah is known for its natural diversity. The Bonneville Salt Flats and the Great Salt Lake Desert, part of the Basin area, are located in western Utah. The Rocky Mountains — the Wasatch Range and Uinta Mountains (with heights of 13,000 feet or more) — run from the northeastern corner, southward through the center of the state. The scenic red rock canyons, buttes, and mesas of the Colorado Plateau are located in southern and southeastern Utah.

Utah is one of the four corners states. It is bordered by Wyoming on the north and east, Colorado on the east, Arizona on the west, and Idaho on the north. It has a single point border with New Mexico to the southeast.

Tourism is one of Utah's most important industries. Five national parks, 5 national monuments, and 6 national forests (containing more than 90,000 acres) and more than one million acres of designated wilderness areas make the state well known for its year-round outdoor and recreational activities. Four major ski resorts add to the state's economy.

Scott 3136g • 1997
The World of Dinosaurs

Allosaurus

The Allosaurus roamed across the United States 145 to 150 million years ago. It was a meat-eating dinosaur, measuring up to 16 feet tall and 39 feet long. More than sixty individual Allosaurus fossils have been found in Utah's quarries. In 1988, the Allosaurus was designated at the state fossil of Utah.

Scott 3604 • 2002
Scott 3739 • 2002
Greetings From America: Utah

The Greetings from America stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and '40s. The rock formation known as the Wall of Windows in Bryce Canyon National Park provides the background for Utah's stamp. A crouching mountain lion, based on a photograph also made in Bryce Canyon National Park, and a sego lily, the Utah state flower, complete the design.

Scott 1157 • 1960
Mexican Independence

Mexico's fight for independence started in 1810. When the Treaty of Córdoba was signed in 1821, "New Spain" was no longer dependent on "Old Spain." The original Mexico-United States border included the entire states of California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and Utah, as well as parts of four other U.S. states. Utah became a part of the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War.

Scott 2869c • 1994
Classic Collection Series: Legends of the West

Jim Bridger

James Felix Bridger (1804–1881) was a true mountain man: hunter, trapper, trader, Indian fighter (and friend), government scout, and guide for many expeditions headed westward. He had a superb knowledge of the unexplored territories west of the Mississippi River. In 1824, while exploring the Bear River, Bridger discovered the Great Salt Lake in Utah.
Early Utah

Scott 3136g • 1997
The World of Dinosaurs
Allosaurus

Scott 3604 • 2002
Greetings From America: Utah

Scott 3739 • 2002
Greetings From America: Utah

Scott 1157 • 1960
Mexican Independence

Scott 2869c • 1994
Classic Collection Series:
Legends of the West
Jim Bridger
Utah History

Scott 950 • 1947
Utah Settlement
The first Utah Settlement was in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (known as Mormons) led by Brigham Young were searching for “a place nobody else wanted” — a place where they would have a life of peace, with no outside interference. Mormons from around the world migrated into Utah, and within three years they had established a territorial government.

Scott 2217f • 1986
Ameripex '86, Presidents
James Buchanan
When the Mormons moved into Utah, they were governed by their leader, Brigham Young.

In 1857 U.S. President James Buchanan (1791–1868) replaced Young with a non-Mormon. At the same time, Buchanan sent U.S. Army troops to the Utah territory instigating the Utah War — a confrontation that lasted from May 1857–July 1858.

Scott 2252 • 1988
Transportation Coils
Conestoga wagon 1800s
As the early pioneers moved westward into Utah, they often traveled in small groups of wagons, often referred to as a wagon train. A Conestoga wagon may have been used to haul the heavy cargo needed by the pioneers. When traveling on the rough roads, the heavy loads would not shift when properly placed in the wagon which was designed to be lower in the middle than the front, back, or sides.

Scott 2869i • 1994
Classic Collection Series:
Legends of the West
John C. Fremont
John Charles Fremont (1813–1890) explored the western regions of the United States. On his second expedition he explored the Great Salt Lake on a rubber raft, and verified that it was land-locked — having no outlet to the sea. Winter had set in when Fremont reached Green River, Utah, on his last expedition. The Mormons of Parowan, Utah, provided shelter and food for the freezing, starving men in Fremont's party, keeping them alive throughout that hard winter.

Scott 2869n • 1994
Classic Collection Series:
Legends of the West
Kit Carson
Christopher “Kit” Houston Carson (1809–1868) accompanied John C. Fremont as a guide as he traveled through the west. On Fremont's second expedition, it was Carson's rubber raft that he used to explore the Great Salt Lake. They discovered an island (now known as Fremont Island or "Disappointment Island") where Carson chiseled a cross into a rock which can still be seen today.

Scott 1374 • 1969
John Wesley Powell
In 1869, John Wesley Powell (1834–1902) set out to explore the Colorado River. While traveling through the canyons in Utah, he noted "... wonderful features—carved walls, royal arches, glens, alcove gulches, mounds and monuments..." His three-month journey included the first known passage through the Grand Canyon. His only child was born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Utah History

Scott 950 • 1947
Utah Settlement

Scott 2252 • 1988
Transportation Coils
Conestoga wagon 1800s

Scott 2217f • 1986
Ameripex ’86, Presidents
James Buchanan

Scott 2869i • 1994
Classic Collection Series:
Legends of the West
Conestoga wagon 1800s

Scott 1374 • 1969
John Wesley Powell

Scott 2869n • 1994
Classic Collection Series:
Legends of the West
Kit Carson
Native Utah Art

Scott 3749 • 2004
Navajo • Jewelry
The Navajo Jewelry postage stamp features a detail of a popular style of silver and turquoise necklace termed a "squash blossom necklace." The term "squash-blossom" simply means "round beads that spread out" — a term that is descriptive of the jewelry style. The crescent-shaped pendant, termed a "názhah" or "naja" (which means "curve" in the Navajo language), is believed to be based on Spanish colonial bridle. The Navajo Indians in Utah reside on a reservation of more than 1,155,000 acres in the southeastern corner of the state.

Scott 2235–38 • 1986
American Folk Art: Navajo Art
Scott 3873h • 2004
Art of the American Indian: Navajo Weaving
Traditional Navajo weaving, which dates to 600 A.D., continues today with geometric, abstract, and zig-zag designs. According to tribal lore, the holy Spider Woman taught the Navajo women to weave. Navajo girls are prepared to carry on the craft by having a spider's web rubbed on her hands and arms so, as the legend says, "she will weave, and her fingers and arms will not tire from weaving."
WESTWARD MOVEMENT

Scott 894 • 1940
Pony Express

Scott 1154 • 1960
Pony Express

The Pony Express began operation on April 3, 1860, with mail service between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The goal was to carry the mail across the 1,966 miles in ten days. The route across Utah consisted of twenty stations, starting with the Needle Rock (also known as The Needles) station near Evanston, Wyoming, and ending at the Deep Creek station near the town of Ibapah. Many of the horses for the Pony Express were provided by Utah companies.

Scott 890 • 1940
Famous Americans: Inventors
Samuel F.B. Morse

Scott 924 • 1944
Telegraph

On October 24, 1861, the connector link between the eastern and western telegraph networks was completed at Salt Lake City, Utah. The transcontinental telegraph allowed for instant communication between Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California. Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791–1872) is credited with inventing the single line telegraph. The telegraph brought an end to the Pony Express, as it brought a "direct line" from the east coast to the west.

Scott 114 • 1869
Locomotive

Scott 922 • 1944
Transcontinental railroad

Scott 1897A • 1982
Transportation Coil Issues: Locomotive 1870s

Scott 2844 • 1994
Locomotives Issues: McQueen’s Jupiter

On July 1, 1860, President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Bill, allowing for a transcontinental railroad. On May 10, 1869 the Union and Central Pacific Railroads joined their rails at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory. A ceremony was held when the last spike was driven into the ground to connect the east bound and the west bound rail lines — the Golden Spike ceremony.

The Jupiter was built by in New York state, dismantled, and shipped (by boat) to Sacramento, California. There it was reassembled in time to be the locomotive that left the west coast to meet up with the Union Pacific No. 119 at Promontory Summit for the Golden Spike ceremony. The east and west coasts were now connected, with travel from New York to San Francisco taking just one week.
Westward Movement

Scott 894 • 1940
Pony Express

Scott 1154 • 1960
Pony Express

Scott 1890 • 1940
Famous Americans: Inventors
Samuel F.B. Morse

Scott 2844 • 1994
Locomotives Issues:
McQueen's Jupiter

Scott 1897A • 1982
Transportation Coil Issues:
Locomotive 1870s

Scott 114 • 1869
Locomotive

Scott 922 • 1944
McQueen's Jupiter

Scott 924 • 1944
Telegraph
Symbols of the State

Scott 1677 • 1976
American Bicentennial: State Flags: Utah

Scott 4324 • 2012
Flags of our Nation VI: Utah

Utah's state seal is displayed on a field of blue. In the middle of the seal is the state emblem (a beehive) with a sego lily (stands for peace) on either side. The state motto “industry” is written above the beehive, and above the beehive is an eagle which stands for protection in peace and war. The year Brigham Young first settled in Utah, 1847, is written below the beehive; and the date 1896, written at the bottom of the seal, represents the year that the state of Utah was admitted to the United States.

Scott 3024 • 1996
Utah Statehood

Mormon leaders elected Brigham Young as governor of the state of Deseret, which functioned from 1849–1870. However, the U.S. House of Representatives would not recognize them as a state, and even sent federal officials to govern the new territory, called Utah. Nearly fifty years later, January 4, 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state in the Union.

Scott 1996 • 1982
State Birds & Flowers
Utah: California Gull & Sego Lily

The California Gull can be found on the lakes and in the marshes of Utah. In the mid-1800’s, when swarms of crickets invaded Utah, the gull consumed the crickets, helping to save the lives of the settlers. California gulls are graceful flyers and sometimes appear motionless in midair by positioning themselves to catch wind currents with precision. Utah designated the California gull as official state bird in 1955.

The sego lily, with its white, lilac, or yellow flowers, grows on open grass and sage rangelands in the Utah Great Basin. This flower was selected as the state floral emblem, not only because of its beauty, but also due to its historic significance. When the state was invaded by crickets in the mid-1800’s, people learned to dig for and to eat the soft, bulbous root of the sego lily. In 1911, the Utah State Legislature designated the sego lily as the official state flower.

Scott 1751 • 1978
American Dance: Folk Dance

Folk dancing provided early settlers the opportunity to socialize, and often became a primary type of community entertainment. Movements from French, Irish, English, and Spanish dances were incorporated with American customs to create a special folk dance: the Square Dance. The dancing was usually accompanied by at least one fiddler, possibly some percussion, and almost always lots of singing. Utah designated the square dance as the official state Folk Dance in 1994.
Utah: More Symbols

Scott 2281 • 1988  
Honeybee  
Honeybees pollinate a large variety of plants. In Utah, the bee was recognized for its hard work by the Mormon settlers. They called the land “Deseret” — the Mormon word for honey bee. The honeybee became Utah’s official state insect in 1983.

Scott 4072 • 2006  
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives  
Quaking Aspen, Largest Plant  
On May 13, 2014, the quaking aspen officially replaced the Colorado blue spruce, becoming the state tree of Utah. Aspen trees grow from the roots of older trees, so that a colony of trees develops from a singular root system. Pando, a huge grove of aspens that spans 106 acres in central Utah, has the largest root stem in the world. Aspen, which does not splinter, is used for chopsticks, plywood, playground equipment, benches, matches, and more.

Scott 2701 • 1992  
Minerals: Copper  
Copper was first discovered in Utah in 1848 but was not mined until the mid-1860s. The Bingham Canyon Mine, also known as the Kennecott Copper Mine, is the largest open-pit mining operation in the world. This mine, in operation since 1906, has created a pit that is approximately ¾ mile deep, 2.5 miles wide, and covers 1,900 acres. In 1966 the Bingham Canyon Open Pit Copper Mine was designated a National Historic Landmark, and in 1994 Utah designated copper as the official state mineral.

Scott 4710i • 2012  
Earthscapes: Cherry Orchard  
Utah is the second largest tart cherry-producing state in the United States, and the fifth in the production of sweet cherries. Nearly 5,000 acres produce more than 2 billion cherries annually to be canned, dried, or consumed as fresh fruit. Utah designated the cherry as the official state fruit in 1997.

Scott 2259 • 1988  
Transportation Coils  
Coal Car 1870s  
Coal is burned in power plants to produce more than half of the electricity used in Utah. It is also used in steel production in the state's steel mills. The state has ten operational mines including the Central Utah Coal Fields where coal has been mined for more than 100 years. This fossil fuel was designated as the official state rock of Utah in 1991.

Scott 1886 • 1981  
American Wildlife  
Elk (Wapiti)  
The Wapiti, or Rocky Mountain Elk, was chosen as Utah’s state animal in 1971. The Native Americans used the elk for food and for its hide. However, when the white settlers moved westward, the elk population was nearly wiped out because of over-hunting. With regulated hunting seasons, national wildlife refuges, parks, and forests, elk now range from the open forests and marshes of the lower elevations during the winter to the higher mountains when food is once again abundant there.
Utah: More Symbols

Scott 2281 • 1988
Honeybee

Scott 4710i • 2012
Earthscape: Cherry Orchard

Scott 4072 • 2006
Wonders of America:
Land of Superlatives
Quaking Aspen, Largest Plant

Scott 2259 • 1988
Transportation Coils
Coal Car 1870s

Scott 2701 • 1992
Minerals: Copper

Scott 1886 • 1981
American Wildlife
Elk (Wapiti)
Utah National Parks

Scott 743 • 1934
National Parks Issues
Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde

Scott 4039 • 2006
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Cliff Palace, largest cliff dwelling

The cliff dwellings were built by the ancestral Pueblo Indians between 900 and 1450 AD. Although this stamp depicts the Cliff Palace, located in the Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, these dwellings can be found throughout the Four Corners area of the United States, which includes a portion of southern Utah. The Puebloans moved from the cliff dwellings during the 12th and 13th centuries.

Scott 747 • 1934
National Parks Issues
Zion National Park

Scott C146 • 2009
Zion National Park

Zion National Park is a most impressive park, located near Springdale, Utah. The park includes mountains, mesas, buttes, arches, and rivers. The North Fork of the Virgin River cuts through the park, creating the Zion Canyon. In 1909 the area was named a National Monument — Mukuntuweap National Monument — to protect the canyon. In 1918 the name was changed to Zion National Park, and in 1919 the United States Congress incorporated it as a National Park.

Scott C139 • 2006
Scenic American Landscapes
Bryce Canyon National Park

Settled by Mormon pioneers in the 1850s, the Bryce Canyon was named after Ebenezer Bryce, a homesteader in the area in the mid-1870s. The canyon was designated as a National Monument in 1923 and as a National Park in 1928. The park contains many hoodoos (odd-shaped pillars of rock left standing from the forces of erosion), natural amphitheaters, and beautiful red, orange, and white colors of rocks. Bryce Canyon National Park is located in southwestern Utah.
Utah National Parks

Scott 743 • 1934
National Parks Issues
Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde

Scott 4039 • 2006
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Cliff Palace, largest cliff dwelling

Scott 747 • 1934
National Parks Issues
Zion National Park

Scott C146 • 2009
Zion National Park

Scott C139 • 2006
Scenic American Landscapes
Bryce Canyon National Park
Utah’s Alpine Tundra

Scott 4198 • 2007
Alpine Tundra
The alpine tundra is found at the highest elevations on the Colorado Plateau of the Rocky Mountains. Strong winds, heavy snowfall, and a very short growing season are markers of the tundra. The mountain peaks above the Tushar Plateau, east of Beaver, Utah, support the alpine tundra.
Utah’s Alpine Tundra

Scott 4198 • 2007
Alpine Tundra
Places to Visit

Scott 4710d • 2012
Earthscapes: Monument Valley
Butte in early morning fog
Scott UX63 • 1972
Monument Valley

Monument Valley is known for its unique sandstone buttes and mesas, formations caused by erosion, geologic uplift, and rivers that carved the valley. The valley floor ranges from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level, with some of the formations (with names like Mittens, Totem Pole, North Window, Elephant Butte, and more) towering 1,000 feet above the valley floor. Monument Valley is located in southwest Utah.

Scott 4060 • 2006
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Rainbow Bridge, largest natural bridge

Rainbow Bridge National Monument is located near Utah's southern border. This natural wonder was formed by the erosion of sandstone by water flowing from the Navajo Mountain towards the Colorado River. The arch is 290 from the base to the top and spans 275 feet across the river; the top of the arch is 42 feet thick and 33 feet wide.

Scott 4051 • 2006
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Great Basin, largest desert

The Great Basin is the largest area in North America to have no rivers or streams running from it to discharge into the sea. Surface water either evaporates, is used for human consumption, or seeps into the ground, including the Great Basin's longest and largest river — Bear River. The Great Basin covers a large portion of northwest Utah.

Scott 4062 • 2006
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Rocky Mountains, longest mountain chain

The Rocky Mountains extend more than 3,000 miles from Canada to New Mexico. The western range of the Rockies — the Wasatch Mountains — cross northern and central Utah. Once known for the silver, lead, and zinc deposits found in the mountains, the Wasatch Range is now home to some of the world's best ski slopes.
PlACES TO VISIT

Scott UX63 • 1972
Monument Valley

Scott 4710d • 2012
Earthscape: Monument Valley
Butte in early morning fog

Scott 4060 • 2006
Wonders of America:
Land of Superlatives
Rainbow Bridge, largest natural bridge

Scott 4051 • 2006
Wonders of America:
Land of Superlatives
Great Basin, largest desert

Scott 4062 • 2006
Wonders of America:
Land of Superlatives
Rocky Mountains, longest mountain chain
More Places to Visit

Scott UX312 • 2000
University of Utah
In 1850, Brigham Young established the University of Deseret in the Salt Lake Valley — the school’s name was changed to University of Utah (the U) in 1892. The U is a public, coeducational, research university. With more than 30,000 students, the University of Utah is the state’s oldest institution of higher learning.

Scott UX83 • 1980
Historic Preservation Issues
Salt Lake City Temple
Dedicated in 1893, the Salt Lake Temple, with its distinctive spires, took 40 years to complete. The walls of the Temple are nine feet thick at the base and six feet thick at the top. The exterior is adorned with symbolism, including the angel Moroni, earthstones, moonstones, sunstones, cloudstones, starstones, and the big dipper. The Salt Lake City temple is the largest Latter Day Saints temple in the world.
MORE PLACES TO VISIT

Scott UX312 • 2000
University of Utah

Scott UX83 • 1980
Historic Preservation Issues
Salt Lake City Temple
Scott 2142 • 1985
Winter Special Olympics
The Special Olympics World Games showcase athletes from around the world with intellectual disabilities. Events include alpine and cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, speedskating, snowboarding, and showshoeing. The Third International Special Olympics Winter Games were held in Park City, Utah, in 1985, with athletes from fourteen countries participating in the skiing and skating events.

Scott 3180 • 1998
Winter Sports-Skiing
With Utah's steep mountains, skiing and snowboarding have become part of the state's economy. The state's fourteen ski resorts boast a wide variety of terrain and great conditions, offering the ultimate winter vacations. Some areas receive up to 500 inches of light, powdery snow per year.

Scott 3552–55 • 2002
Olympic Games, Winter
The 2002 Winter Olympics (XIX Olympic Winter Games) were held in and around Salt Lake City, Utah. During the event, 2,400 athletes from 78 nations participated in 78 events, including skiing, hockey, snowboarding, skating, luge, bobsled, and curling. The United States won 34 medals during the 2002 Winter Olympics.
Utah Sports

Scott 2142 • 1985
Winter Special Olympics

Scott 3180 • 1998
Winter Sports-Skiing

Scott 3552–55 • 2002
Olympic Games, Winter
Famous Utahns

Scott 2058 • 1983
American Inventors
Philo T. Farnsworth
and First Television Camera
Philo Taylor Farnsworth (1906–1971) invented the first functional all-electronic television system — complete with camera and receiver. He held 165 patents, mostly in television and radio. He was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 2013. Philo Farnsworth was born near Beaver, Utah, and attended Brigham Young University before opening his company — Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation.

Scott 2823 • 1994
Stars of the Silent Screen
John Gilbert
John Gilbert (1897–1936) was born John Cecil Pringle in Logan, Utah. He began his acting career at the age of 17, and rose to become the undisputed leading romantic idol of the silent screen. He directed, wrote screenplays, and appeared in more than 100 films. A star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame honors John Gilbert’s contribution to the motion picture industry.

Scott 3502t • 2001
Classic Collections:
American Illustrators
John Held Jr
John Held, Jr. (1889–1958) is best known for his dancing cartoon characters, Betty Co-ed and her friend Joe College, who together depicted the emotions of women during the 1920s. In addition to designing posters for Collier's Street Railway Advertising Company and Wanamaker's Department Store, his works often appeared in magazines such as Life, Collier's, and The New Yorker. John Held was born in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Famous Utahns

Scott 2058 • 1983
American Inventors
Philo T. Farnsworth
and First Television Camera

Scott 2823 • 1994
Stars of the Silent Screen
John Gilbert

Scott 3502t • 2001
Classic Collections:
American Illustrators
John Held Jr
More Utah

Scott 2559i • 1991
World War II, 1941: A World at War
Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, the USS Utah, part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was stationed at the U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. In a surprise attack by Japanese bombers and fighters, 3,500 Americans were killed. The Utah was among the casualties, being hit by two torpedoes. Sixty-four men aboard the USS Utah were killed in the attack.
More Utah

Scott 2559i • 1991
World War II, 1941: A World at War
Pearl Harbor
THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

This album may not include every issue. Use the blank pages to add stamps to your album.

A special thank you to David and Julia Crawford for their assistance in identifying stamps related to the State of Utah.

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