

UTAH...THIS IS THE PLACE

(NARRATION)

On January 4, 1896 Utah was admitted to the Union as the 45th state. In this program we are going to give you a musical history lesson of this great land that we love. You can go anywhere...but there's none that compare. This is the place!

SONG- Utah...This Is The Place

When the pioneers arrived in Utah on July 24, 1847 there were five main tribes of Indians living here. They were the Utes, Paiutes, Gosiutes, Shoshones, and Navajos.

Today there are about 20,000 Native Americans who live in Utah. Two-thirds of these people live on reservations and the rest live in towns and cities throughout the state. They are a proud people and have done much to make Utah a better state in which to live.

SONG- Utah Indians

The first white people to explore Utah were a group of Spanish explorers who were trying to find a short cut between Santa Fe, New Mexico and Monterey, California. They were led by two Catholic priests, Father Escalante and Father Dominguez (do men'gwaz). They left Santa Fe in July 1776 and during their expedition explored parts of Utah. They made maps of their travels through Utah which were a valuable resource to others who later explored this region.

SONG- First White Men In Utah

The next group of people to explore Utah were the FUR TRADERS AND TRAPPERS, known as the "Mountain Men". They came to Utah looking for valuable beaver skins to supply the demand for tall beaver hats.

Among the trappers who came to Utah were Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, Peter Skene Ogden, and Etienne Provost. Although many of these men couldn't read or write very well, they were good at telling stories about the vast lands surrounding the Great Salt Lake. As these stories circulated back to settlements in the East, others became interested and were motivated to follow the mountain men's trails westward.

SONG- Fur Traders And Trappers

By 1846, at least six wagon trains had made trails through Utah and yet none of these early travelers wanted to stop and settle in this barren desert, covered with sagebrush. They had heard that the fertile valleys of California were only another 500 miles away.

However, this was just the kind of country the Mormons were looking for...a place no one else wanted. A place far away from others where they could worship as they pleased without fear of persecution. Led by Brigham Young, a group of 143 men, 3 women, 2 children, 72 wagons, 93 horses, 52 mules, 66 oxen, 19 cows, 17 dogs, and a few chickens arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. These courageous men and women blazed the trail for others across a desolate frontier. We're grateful to our Utah Pioneers.

SONG- Utah Pioneers

The pioneers came to Utah because it was far away from other settlements. They wanted to be left alone. However, this did not last for long. Utah became less isolated as the means of communication and transportation improved. The invention of the telegraph and the steam engine brought many changes.

In 1862 the United States congress voted to build a railroad that would go across the country. Two companies were hired to build the railroad, the Union Pacific from the East and the Central Pacific from the West. Because each company was paid for every mile of track they laid, it became a race to see which one could lay the most. It was on the 10th of May in 1869 that the two companies finally met at Promontory Point, Utah. The transcontinental railroad joined the East and West as one. With this 'Wedding of the Rails' a new age had begun.

SONG- Iron Wheels a Rollin'

The railroad brought many changes to the territory of Utah and marked the end of the "pioneer period". Large amounts of goods could now be brought into Utah in a matter of days instead of months. Also, agricultural, mining, and manufactured goods produced in Utah could be hauled out and sold in other places. Because the people were industrious, Utah soon became the agricultural and manufacturing center of the West.

In 1850, the United States organized the region as a territory and named it Utah in honor of Ute Indians living here. Later, Utah was admitted to the Union as the 45th state on January 4, 1896.

SONG- Looking Back

Utah has an area of 84,990 square miles, and is divided into 29 counties. Some of these counties were given Indian names and some were named after explorers and trappers. Others were named after minerals, trees, lakes, rivers, and animals. Of these 29 counties in Utah we are able to name each one. Learning them all while singing is easy and also is fun!

SONG- The 29 Counties Of Utah

Millions of tourists visit Utah each year because its mountains, lakes, and rivers are excellent for boating, fishing, hunting, skiing, and sightseeing.

Utah is rich in natural resources. However, its greatest resource is its people who are industrious and well educated. No matter where I travel there's nowhere I'd rather be. Utah is the place for me!

SONG- There's No Place Like Utah

In closing, we'd like say how grateful we are for the legacy our pioneer forefathers have left to us. We look forward to the future as Utah leads the way into the 21st Century.

SONG- Utah...This Is The Place (finale)