

Utah Facts

Quick Facts	History	Geography
<p>NICKNAME: The Beehive State STATEHOOD: 1896; 45th state POPULATION (AS OF JULY 2016): 3,051,217 CAPITAL: Salt Lake City BIGGEST CITY: Salt Lake City ABBREVIATION: UT STATE BIRD: California gull STATE FLOWER: sego lily</p>	<p>Archaeologists know that people have lived in the land now called Utah for more than 12,000 years, thanks to a recently discovered Ice Age campsite. There, experts found a spear point used to hunt mammoths, as well as bones from waterfowl that prehistoric people probably cooked.</p>	<p>This western state is bordered by Idaho and Wyoming in the north, Colorado in the east, Arizona in the south, and Nevada in the west. Its southeastern corner touches Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Called “Four Corners,” it’s the only place in the country where four states come together!</p>
<h2>Why's it called that?</h2>	<p>Native American tribes formed over thousands of years, including the Navajo, Goshute, Ute, Paiute, Bannock, and Shoshone. Their descendants still live in the state today.</p>	<p>Utah has three major geographic areas: the Rocky Mountains, the Great Basin Region, and the Colorado Plateau.</p>
<p>Experts don’t agree on Utah’s name. Some say it comes from the Spanish nickname for the Ute Native American tribe, Yuta. But others say the name could come from the Ute word yutas, which is said to mean “the people,” or “people of the mountains.”</p>	<p>The first Spanish explorers reached the land around 1776. But soon, in 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain and claimed parts of the area for itself. But that didn’t last, either. In 1848, the United States won the Mexican-American War, and as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico ceded (gave up) Utah to the United States. In 1896 Utah became the 45th state.</p>	<p>The Rocky Mountains region runs from northeastern Utah through the center of the state. It includes the 13,528-foot Kings Peak, Utah’s highest point.</p>
<p>Utah is nicknamed the Beehive State because the early pioneers considered themselves as hardworking as bees. The name is thought to have been coined by people of the Mormon faith, who came to Utah in 1847 seeking religious freedom.</p>	<h2>Natural Resources</h2>	<p>The Colorado Plateau spreads across the southern third of Utah. It might sound like it’s totally flat, but mountains, canyons, and valleys dot the region. Monument Valley’s red mesas and rock spires have appeared in many western movies, and Zion National Park’s Zion Canyon is another red rock hot spot. Bryce Canyon is known for its “hoodoos,” rock pillars that look like crazy man-made statues but were naturally formed by erosion.</p>
<h2>Wildlife</h2>	<p>Manmade ponds in Moab, Utah, produce potassium chloride, which is used in fertilizer, medicines, and foods. The state also mines uintaite (also called gilsonite), a shiny black rock used in making cement, asphalt, and paint. Copper is the state mineral, and Utah contains one of the world’s largest open-pit copper mines. It’s so deep that two 1,454-foot Willis Towers (the second-tallest tower in the United States) could fit stacked inside it!</p>	<p>The Great Basin Region crosses western Utah and includes mountains and salt flats. Here is where you’ll find the Great Salt Lake, which is even saltier than the ocean!</p>
<p>The Rocky Mountain elk is the state animal, common in Utah’s mountains. Desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, white-tailed jackrabbits, piute ground squirrels, and Hopi chipmunks are also among Utah’s mammals.</p> <p>Side-blotched lizards, Utah mountain kingsnakes, and desert tortoises are among the state’s reptiles, and Great Plains toads and Arizona tiger salamanders are two of the amphibians that hop and slither through Utah.</p>	<p>Rock hounds can visit Utah for its semi-precious stones including rare red beryl, the purple bertrandite, and topaz, the state gem.</p>	