

BR: D3

Imagine that you have just arrived in Utah as a Mormon immigrant. How do you feel? There's not much here...yet. Write a short letter to a friend describing your feelings:

Utah Studies

Ch. 7.1 Settling in Utah

Exploring the Valley

July 27th: Just days after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, 16 men set out to explore the Mormons' new home. Riding horses, they rode up and bathed in the Salt Lake, while some explored the west edge of the valley, leading to current-day Tooele.

Then they turned south, went to the Point of the Mountain (near Lehi / Draper today), and looked over the Utah Valley.

The Utes they met were “**peaceable** and **gentle**”, and later in August they explored the valleys of Tooele, Utah, Bear River and Cache areas. They also found a small fort, **Fort Buenaventura**, built by mountain man **Miles Goodyear**, (nearby Ogden) but he wasn't there. They found a herd of animals he had left behind however.



What Now?

With winter not all that far away, the Mormons had **3 pressing tasks** ahead of them: **Building homes, planting crops, and exploring their new home.**

Though **lumber / wood** was easy enough to find in the nearby mountains, it was also more **difficult to get to**. Yet they found a way, cutting and dragging lumber to use for buildings and homes. They also built a fort, called **Old Fort**, to keep themselves safe from the Natives, just in case. It was made from **adobe** bricks, and the first Mormon home built inside the fort.

If you weren't busy doing that, then you were **digging ditches** to move water to crop fields. By July 25th, they had dammed a small creek, **City Creek**, and planted potatoes, followed by corn, and other crops. By Dec. 1847, **2000 acres** had been planted, and the potatoes harvested were as large as **silver dollars!**

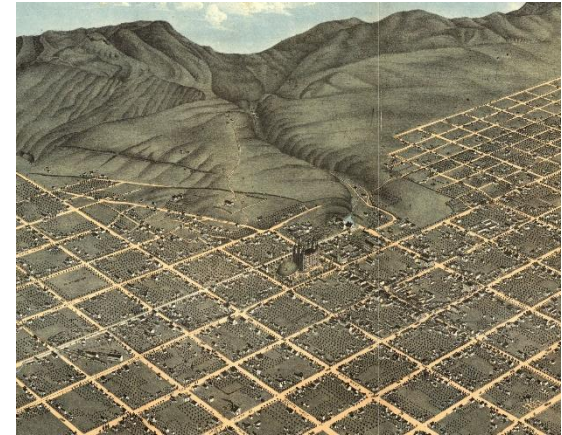


Planning for the Future

Meanwhile, other work went on. People **hunted** wild animals for food, **collected salt** from the lake for seasoning and preservation, **cleared a road** to a local canyon to make collecting wood and rock easier, and even **built a blacksmith shop**.

Meanwhile, **Brigham Young** assigned two men, **Orson Pratt** and **H.G. Sherwood**, to lay out a **grid plan** for the new city, just like they had in Nauvoo. They had 135 blocks, each having 10 acres, divided into 8 lots each. [LINK](#)

The roads were extra wide, to allow a wagon to do a U-turn. There were three public squares scattered about the city, which are now **Pioneer Park**, the site of the **Salt Lake & County Building** as well as **Liberty Park**. [LINK](#)



Class Assignment:

Using a **chromebook**, find a town in Utah, and answer the following questions:

If you go to another part of Utah outside of Salt Lake, do the older towns follow the same system? Explain!

Find one that does seem similar to Salt Lake, and figure out how far apart each street is (Example: 100 E to 200 E), or how wide / tall each block is, measuring with the **key** in the corner on Google Maps, etc.

How do those blocks **compare** with Salt Lake Street blocks? Why do you think that is?

What about the grid system in Salt Lake County? Describe it for **Magna, UT**, for instance.

Do you think the grid street system is a good / bad idea? Explain!

The First Winter

September, 1847: The first large groups of Mormons / Latter-Day Saints arrive in the Salt Lake Valley. Over 1500 people were in the valley, along with 500+ wagons, 100+ horses, nearly 900 cows, and over 700 chickens.

Sadly, later in September, cattle and horses got loose, and destroyed almost all of the planted crops. Thankfully it was a mild winter, but it was a lean and hard time.

People were hunting and eating anything they could find, including **segoe lily** bulbs, our **state flower**, as well as crows, wolves, thistles, and anything else that might be edible.



Crickets & Seagulls

When spring came, many Mormons thought their troubles would be over...yet they were just beginning!

Massive clouds of **crickets** arrive, landed, and the hordes of insects devoured the newly planted crops. For weeks the settlers tried to drive them off, but they were just replaced by hundreds more.

Then, hundreds of **California Seagulls** arrived (the answer to desperate prayer, in the minds of the Mormons), and they devoured the crickets. [VID](#)

This helped save the Mormons from starvation, and they honored the birds by naming them the state bird. These crickets from time to time still caused issues for some Mormon communities, even today. [VID](#)



Gold!!!

As you might recall from before, gold was discovered around this same time. Read the handout, and answer the questions in the Guided Notes!

After you are done, you may work quietly on **make-up work**, like your missing **mini-saga**, etc.