

INFORMATION FOR YOUR WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL REPORT

Did you know that the first known people who lived in Washington County were the Anasazi Indians? They were called the ancient ones. They came here around 200 B.C. and suddenly left the area around 1200 A.D. No one knows why they suddenly took off, leaving their dwellings, rock-art and other evidence of their 1,000 year existence in the southwest.

The next group to live in this area was the Paiute Indians. They were here from about 1100 or 1200 A.D. to the present. They lived in relatively small tribes with their own leaders. They survived by foraging for seeds, roots, berries and nuts. They also hunted for deer, rabbits, mountain sheep and other animals. They raised corn, wheat, melons, squash and other vegetables along the banks of the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers.

The Spanish are known as the first to contact the Paiutes. The Paiutes occasionally met with other trappers and pioneers, but had the area mostly to themselves until 1861, when the Mormon Pioneers settled in the area.

Although early settlers came to Washington County as early as 1852, it was not considered a permanent settlement until 1861. See "How Dixie Became the Nickname for Southwestern Utah" for more details.

Today the cotton fields are gone, wineries are closed and the silk industry has given way to modern, more prosperous businesses. Today Washington County's population is over 142,000 with over 68,000 in St. George, the largest city and also the county seat. In January 2008, Forbes Magazine ranked St. George #7 in the nation as the "Fastest Growing Small Metro Area in the Nation".

Washington County is located along Interstate 15 (I-15) in the southwestern corner of Utah. It is 2,422 square miles in size and the start-off point to some of the most beautiful areas in the world, including Zion National Park, Snow Canyon State Park and Pine Valley Mountain which has peaks over 10,000 feet. There are sand dunes, mountains and lakes for all sorts

of outdoor recreation. You can enjoy a lot of scenic walking, biking and hiking and exploring the red rocks in all of Washington County.

St. George is nestled in a picturesque valley surrounded by impressive red sandstone cliffs. It is 2,880 feet above sea level. The area typically has over 300 days of sunshine a year and the temperature varies from a low of 40.3 in January to a high of 102+ in July.

People have settled here for various reasons. Most come for the climate, scenic beauty, family atmosphere, Dixie State College and job opportunities. In 2007 St. George was ranked #8 in the nation by Farmers Insurance Group as "The Most Secure Place to Live in the United States". It has been on many other lists, including "Top Places to Retire", "Hottest Cities for Business" and "Best Metro City for Women Entrepreneurs".

People come to the St. George Area to visit because there are a lot of things to do and see. In addition to hiking and biking, many come to play golf on the area's 12 golf courses. Sand Hollow Reservoir, Gunlock Reservoir and Quail Lake are popular in the summer time for boating, fishing and swimming.

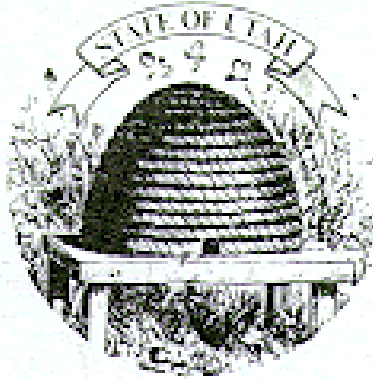
St. George has a large convention center, museums, art galleries and dinosaur tracks. The City hosts many activities and festivals such as the Art Festival in the spring, the St. George marathon and the Huntsman World Senior Games in October. St. George also hosts many sporting events such as softball in the Canyon Softball Complex located on Snow Canyon Parkway. There are championship tennis courts at the Tonaquint Park.

The Tuacahn Amphitheatre, located in the beautiful red rock canyon in Ivins has indoor and outdoor theaters where they host wonderful musical plays. It is called "Broadway in the Desert." The St. George Musical Theater and the plays and concerts at Dixie State College are also popular.

STATE FLAG AND EMBLEM



The Utah State Flag as we know it today was originally designed for the battleship Utah in 1912. It was later made the official flag of Utah in 1913. It has a blue background with the state seal inscribed in the center. The American Eagle with wings outspread grasping 6 arrows in its talons symbolizes protection in peace and war. The Beehive is the symbol of industry. The Segoe Lily is a symbol of peace. The Draped American Flag is the symbol of Utah's support to the nation. "1847" is the year the Mormon Pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley. "1896" is the year Utah was admitted as the 45th state (Jan 4th).



The Beehive and word "industry" became Utah's official state motto and emblem on March 4, 1959. Industry is associated with the symbol of the beehive. The early pioneers had few material resources at their disposal and therefore had to rely on their own "industry" to survive. The Beehive was chosen as the emblem for the provisional State of Deseret in 1848 and was maintained along with the word "Industry" on the seal and flag when Utah became a state in 1896.

UTAH'S STATE SYMBOLS

State Emblem - Beehive
State Animal- Rocky Mountain Elk
State Bird – California Seagull
State Cooking Pot – Dutch Oven
State Fish – Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
State Flower – Segoe Lily
State Folk Dance – Square Dance
State Fossil - Allosaurus
State Fruit – Cherry
State Gem - Topaz
State Grass – Indian Rice Grass

State Insect – Honey Bee
State Mineral - Copper
State Motto – "Industry"
State Rock - Coal
State Song – "Utah, This is the Place"
State Hymn – "Utah, We Love Thee"
State Star - Dubhe
State Tartan – Utah State Tartan
State Tree – Blue Spruce
State Vegetable – Spanish Sweet Onion
State Historic Vegetable – Sugar Beet

WEBSITES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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