

Utah Reading Comprehension for Grades 4-6

Salt Lake City was founded by Brigham Young and members of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in 1847. The Mormons were looking for an isolated place to practice their religious beliefs without being persecuted. Immediately, settlers began building their temple, which was completed forty years later. They also organized a new state, which they called Deseret. Congress, however, denied their petition for statehood and instead created the Utah Territory. In 1858, Salt Lake City was named capital of the Utah Territory. In the late 1800's, the city's population grew with the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The famed "Golden Spike" was hammered north of Salt Lake City in Promontory, Utah.

Today, Salt Lake City remains one of only two urban areas (cities) in the entire Great Basin (Reno, Nevada is the other). A little less than half of the city's residents are Mormons. The city is a popular resort town with skiers and winter sports enthusiasts. In 2002, Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics.

1. Why did the Mormons settle in Salt Lake City?

- A. It was the capital of Utah
- B. They wanted to practice their religion freely
- C. They knew the population would grow
- D. They knew it would grow to be a great city

2. What happened when the Mormons applied for statehood?

- A. It was granted by Congress
- B. Congress agreed to complete the Transcontinental Railroad
- C. The Utah Territory was created
- D. The Mormons organized the "state" of Deseret.

3. Today...

- A. Many Mormons still live in Salt Lake City.
- B. Mormons are the only people that live in Salt Lake City.
- C. Mormons no longer live in Salt Lake City.
- D. There are very few Mormons who live in Salt Lake City.

4. Which of the following people would likely be MOST excited to visit Utah?

- A. Snowboarders
- B. Skateboarders
- C. Tennis Players
- D. Surfers

5. What can you infer about the Great Basin from the passage?

- A. It has a lot of traffic and congestion
- B. It has a lot of people
- C. Apart from Salt Lake City and Reno, there are probably few people
- D. Reno, Nevada is a very large city

6. When did Salt Lake City start growing?

- A. Upon the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad
- B. After the Winter Olympics of 2002
- C. 1858
- D. When Deseret was formed

7. What is implied in the followed sentence?

The famed "Golden Spike" was hammered north of Salt Lake City in Promontory, Utah.

- A. Promontory, Utah became the capital of Utah
- B. The "Golden Spike" became well known
- C. The Transcontinental Railroad was built through Salt Lake City
- D. None of the above