

Chapter **1**

Utah's Geography

Essential Question:

How does Utah's geography affect its people?



Chapter 1

Where is Utah?

Which of these statements is true?

- Utah is on planet Earth.
- Utah is in the Northwest Hemisphere.
- Utah is on the continent of North America.



- Utah is in the western part of the United States.
- Utah is between the 109° and 114° west longitude lines and the 37° and 42° north latitude lines.

All of these statements are true. All of these factors affect how we live.

Chapter 1

What are the physical features of Utah?

- Mountains are physical features in Utah.

Wasatch Mountains

Henry Mountains

Uintah Mountains

La Sal Mountains

- Rivers are physical features in Utah.

Colorado River

Green River

- Lakes are physical features in Utah.

The Great Salt Lake

Bear Lake

Lake Powell

Utah Lake



Chapter 1

How do physical features of Utah affect the people?

- People start communities in places where physical features make life possible and enjoyable.
- People start communities close to rivers and streams.
- People start communities where natural resources provide food and supplies for housing.
- People start communities where physical features provide protection against enemies and weather.



Chapter 1

What are Utah's landforms?

- Mountains
- Plateaus
- Basins
- Valleys



Chapter 1

What are the land regions in Utah?

There are three land regions in Utah.



- Rocky Mountain Region
- Great Basin Region
- Colorado Plateau Region

Chapter 1

What are the physical features of the Rocky Mountain region?



- Snow from the mountains provides water for the cities in the valley below.
- Mountains provide recreation.
- Mountains provide coal, copper, silver, gold, and other minerals.



Chapter 1

What are the physical features of the Great Basin region?



- Land in the Great Basin Region consists of large, dry desert.
- Most of Utah's large cities are on the edge of the basin including our capital, Salt Lake City.
- Rivers flow from the mountains to form the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake.



Chapter 1

What are the physical features of the Colorado Plateau region?



- The Colorado Plateau Region has high, flat lands and little rain.
- Rivers in this region flow to the Green River and Colorado River, which then flow to the Pacific Ocean.
- Colorful rock formations are a highlight of this region.
- Coal, oil, and natural gas are mined in this region.



Chapter 1

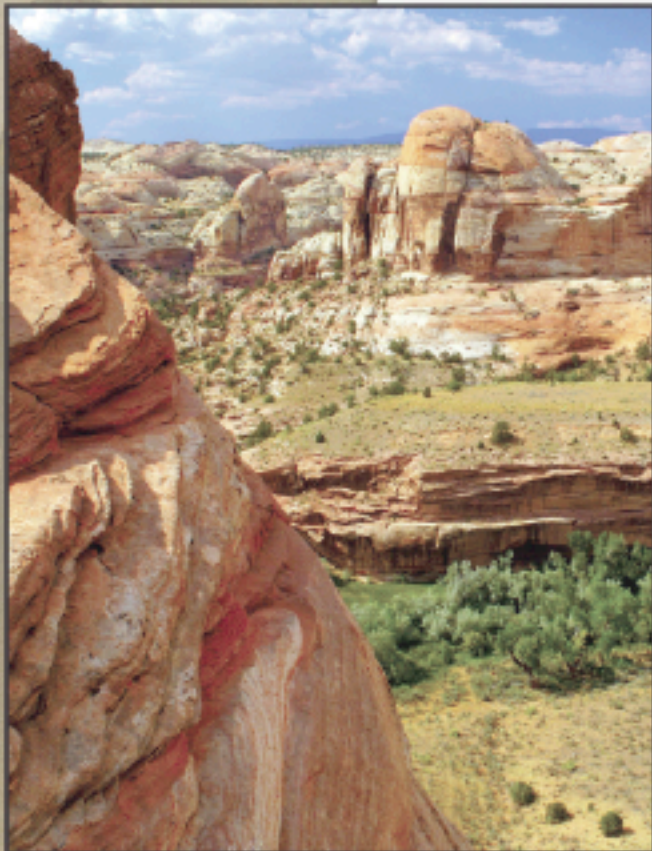
How do people use the land?



- The national government owns 60% of Utah's land.
- The state of Utah also owns a lot of land.
- Government land is called public land.
- State and national parks and monuments are public lands.

Chapter 1

Who controls the public land?



- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages land that is used for recreation.
- Congress sets aside wilderness areas to preserve the beauty of our state.
- The U.S. government sets up trust lands to provide money to the schools.

Chapter 1

What is Utah's climate like?

- **Latitude affects climate.**
Parts of southern Utah are warmer than northern Utah because they are closer to the equator.
- **Elevation affects climate.**
Parts of Utah that have a higher elevation are cooler.
- **Distance from large bodies of water affect climate.**

Because Utah is far from the ocean, it has more extreme temperatures than places closer to the ocean. Utah's summers are hot and winters are cold.

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How does climate influence life in Utah?

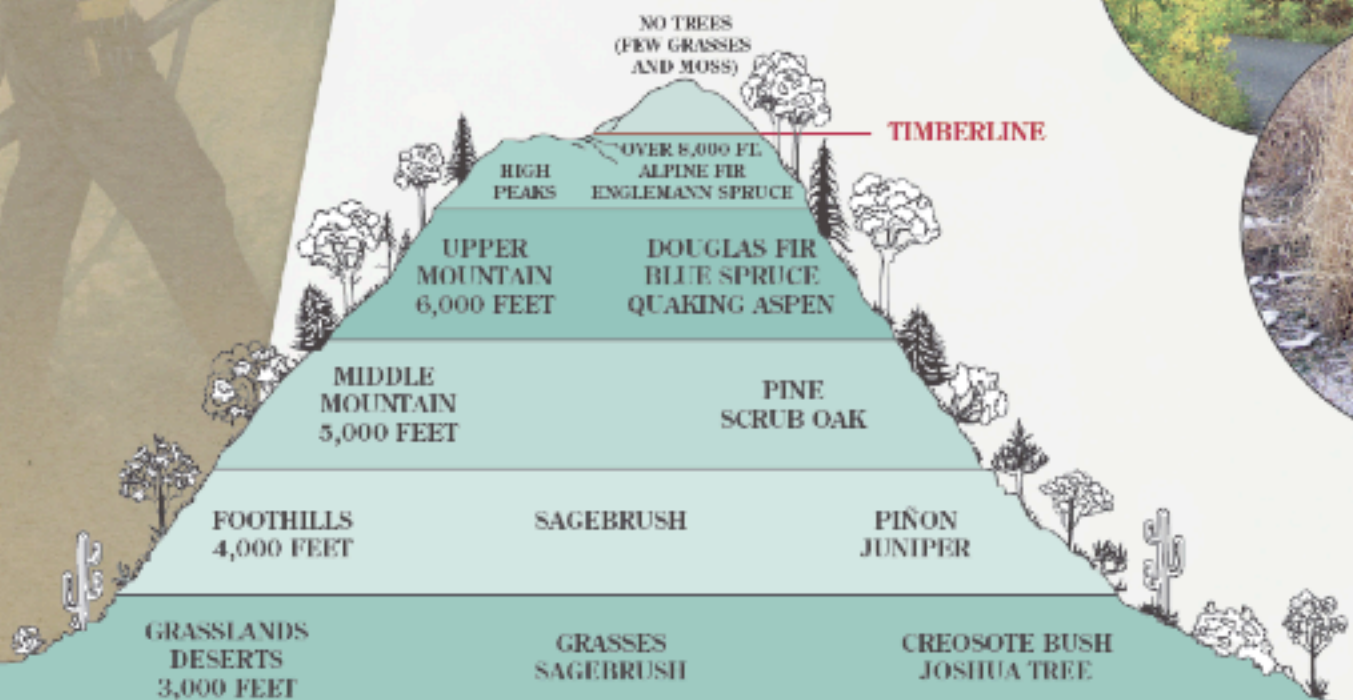
- Farmers use melted snow from the mountains to water their crops.
- Cities have grown close to water sources near the mountains.
- People enjoy many different types of recreation.



Chapter 1

What plants grow naturally in Utah?

Plant life changes with elevation.



Chapter 1

What animals are indigenous to Utah?

Elk, mules, deer, antelope, mountain sheep, moose, bears, bobcats, coyotes, wolves, and cougars roam wild in the wilderness areas of Utah.

