



Teacher's Guide for **UTAH TALES** at Treehouse

On Treehouse's Utah Tales Tour your students will explore Utah's cultural heritage and unique geography in a two hour tour that celebrates our beautiful state. Elements of focus will be the Native American peoples of Utah and the pioneers and settlers.

Prior to your visit to Treehouse we suggest that you:

1. Discuss what your students know about Utah historical figures and Native Peoples.
2. Share some books about Utah and the American West. Books such as these by Byrd Baylor, while not specifically about Utah, celebrate the desert lands and the unique nature of the climate we live in:
The Desert is Theirs
If You Are a Hunter of Fossils
Everybody Needs a Rock
3. Talk about Utah's unique geography and host a class tour of the national parks in Utah via slides and online.
4. Set up a reading corner that features books about Utah and books by Utah authors.
5. Collect Utah history memorabilia as a class, including newspaper articles and ads, products from the state, and maps of Utah, to create a display.

During your visit:

Students will be introduced to the Museum's *Utah Heritage Gallery* and *How the West Was Fun* exhibit through a discussion of exhibit components and cultural artifacts and will also play Treehouse's *Mapping Utah* Challenge Game, reinforcing their understanding of people and places important to our state's history. Students will make a craft inspired by our state's Native American heritage in the Treehouse Art Garden and on stage in the *Treehouse Theater* students will participate in a retelling of a Ute folk tale. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

After your visit:

1. Have students make their own Utah postcards showing what they think is great about our state and its heritage.
2. Talk about the immigrants, settlers, and Native Americans who came to or lived in Utah. Have a class "Heritage Day" where each student shares a story or item from a country of his or her ancestry.
3. Plan a Pioneer Dance for your school.
4. Help students make their own puzzle map of Utah showing all the important places.
5. Make a time capsule, including a listing of favorite books, and talk about what students in Utah's future might find interesting about us!

Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.



Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families "Step into a Story."

Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum
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