



# Mormon Pioneers in Arizona

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| <b>Grade Level</b> | High School    |
| <b>Duration</b>    | 1 class period |

## National Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

#### Element 2: Places and Regions

4. The physical and human characteristics of places  
6. How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions

#### Element 4: Human Systems

9. The characteristics, distribution and migration of human populations on Earth's surface  
10. The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics  
12. The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement

#### Element 6: The Uses of Geography

17. How to apply geography to interpret the past

## AZ Standards

### ELA

#### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

11-12.RI.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in print in order to address a question or solve a problem.

#### Writing

#### Production and Distribution of Writing

11-12.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## Arizona Social Science Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

**The use of geographic representations and tools help individuals understand their world.**

HS.G1.1 Use geographic data to explain and analyze relationships between locations of place and regions.

**Human-environment interactions are essential aspects of human life in all societies.**

HS.G2.1 Analyze interactions within and between human and physical systems.

HS.G2.4 Evaluate the use and sustainability of natural resources.

### HISTORY

**The development of civilizations, societies, cultures, and innovations have influenced history and continue to impact the modern world.**

HS.H1.2 Explain and compare how social, cultural, and environmental factors influenced state-building, expansion, and dissolution.

## Overview

Although students in Arizona have heard of Mormons—the commonly used term for members of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, many are unclear as to how and when Mormons settled in Arizona. Most high school students gain a basic understanding of the Mormons as pioneers who settled in Salt Lake City as part of Westward Expansion. But why are Mormons in Arizona?

## Purpose

Students will gain a better understanding of places and regions, as well as human systems, by studying the geographic, cultural, and economic characteristics of Mormon settlements in Arizona.

## Materials

- Mormon Pioneer Pre-Test and Answer Key
- Mormon Pioneers in Arizona PowerPoint
- Arizona's Topography and Rivers map  
<https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/LessonFiles/Schmidt/108/supplemental/AZTOPO.PDF>

- Important River, Streams and Washes map  
<https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/Az-rivers-key.pdf>
- Mormon Exploration map  
[https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/AZ\\_explor\\_Mormon.pdf](https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/AZ_explor_Mormon.pdf)
- Arizona Watershed map  
[https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/AZ\\_Watersheds\\_COLOR.pdf](https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/AZ_Watersheds_COLOR.pdf)
- Colored pencils
- Mormon Settlement Place Names (Extension Idea)
- Partner Paragraph Scoring Guide

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the characteristics of early Mormon pioneer settlements.
2. Evaluate cities in Arizona to determine if they were settled by Mormons.
3. Analyze migration patterns of Mormon pioneers into Arizona.

## Procedures

*Prerequisite Skills: Students should have had prior instruction in pioneer groups when discussing Westward Expansion.*

*Prior Preparation: Teacher might want to print off the Arizona's Topography and Rivers, Important River, Streams and Washes, and Mormon Exploration maps and staple them in a file folder--one set for each partner group. These can be used over and over again. This will also clarify which map to color and label (the loose one-- the **Arizona's Topography and Rivers map**)*

### SESSION ONE

1. Begin the lesson by asking students a series of questions such as: What do you know about the Mormons? What cities in the Phoenix area are known as being heavily populated by Mormons? What percentage of the population in Arizona are Mormons?
2. Pass out Pre-test on Mormon Pioneers. Give 1-2 minutes for students to finish the quiz.
3. Project the Mormon Pioneer PowerPoint. Encourage students to take notes regarding the characteristics of Mormon settlements. **IMPORTANT: Stop at the Student Task Slide 18.** The next slide has a link to the Google Maps site that has the actual Arizona pioneer sites labeled. This will be used at the end of the lesson.

4. After explaining Slide 18, have students find a partner and pass out copies of the Arizona maps and colored pencils.

- Arizona's Topography and Rivers map
- Important River, Streams and Washes map
- Mormon Exploration map
- Arizona Watershed map

5. Brainstorm what would be a good location for a settlement (availability of water, terrain of the land, trade possibilities, transportation potential, etc.)?

6. Ask partnerships to color and label 4 areas on the **Arizona's Topography and Rivers map** that they think would be good locations for Mormon settlements. Have each partnership write a paragraph justifying their locations and providing latitude and longitude for their locations. (

7. Collect student maps and paragraphs. Ask students to share their locations with the whole class.

8. Closure: Show map on Google Maps of the actual locations of early pioneer settlements and see if any student locations match.

## Assessment

### ELA and Social Science

The paragraph generated by the student can be graded according to the Partner Paragraph Scoring Guide. Mastery will be considered a score of 20 points or higher.

## Extensions

Provide students with a list of cities from the Mormon Settlement Place Names handout. Have the students use Google Maps to locate a city on the list and then zoom in to examine the city layout and determine if there is a grid pattern that follows traditional Mormon city planning.

Students could also create their own Google Map labeling the cities they find in Google Docs and share it with the class.

## Sources

Anderson, Doug. Mormon Settlements PPT. Four Corners Institute. 21 June 2011. Fort Lewis College, Colorado.

Arizona Geographic Alliance Maps.  
<http://alliance.la.asu.edu/maps/maps.htm>

McClintock, James H. *Mormon Settlements in Arizona: A Record of Peaceful Conquest of the Desert*. Harvard University Press. 1921.

Image: Percent LDS by County, 2000.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon\\_Corridor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon_Corridor)

Image: LDS as Percentage of State Population.

[http://www.adherents.com/largecom/com\\_lds.html](http://www.adherents.com/largecom/com_lds.html)

Image: John Lassen, President of Salt River Project.

<http://www.cooganphoto.com/john-lassen.html>