

UTAH GEOGRAPHY AND ITS PEOPLE

This lesson plan has been created as a resource for seventh grade teachers to teach the new core standards to their students. It integrates social studies standards in a meaningful and fun way. To see which specific standards are addressed, please refer to them below.

OBJECTIVE:

1. Look for interaction between Utah's geography and its inhabitants using maps.
2. Understand the present day technologies used in mapping.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

7th Grade Social Studies: Utah Studies

Standard 1: Students will understand the interaction between Utah's geography and its inhabitants.

Objective 1: Investigate the relationship between physical geography and Utah's settlement, land use, and economy. Read and interpret a variety of maps.

Indicators:

- a. Identify the physical features and regions of Utah.
- b. Compare and contrast the relationship between physical features and regions to settlement, land use, and the economy.

Objective 2: Examine the interrelationship between Utah's climate, location, landforms, and life. Describe how latitude, elevation, and distance from the ocean influence Utah's climate.

Indicators:

- a. Explain how mountains, valleys, and bodies of water affect climate.
- b. Assess how climate influences life in Utah.
- c. Explain how natural forces shape the living environment and landscape.
- d. Investigate how natural forces shape the local environments.
- e. Predict how natural forces affect environments; e.g., earthquakes, volcanic action, mudslides, flooding, erosion.

Objective 3: Assess how natural resources sustain and enhance people's lives. Recognize the impact of water, minerals, wildlife, and forests on people.

Indicators:

- a. Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources.
- b. Analyze how natural resources improve the quality of life.
- c. Assess the importance of protecting and preserving natural resources.

Objective 4: Examine how people affect the geography of Utah. Identify Utah's counties and cities.

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Indicators:

- a. Assess how people change the landscape.
- b. Examine how altered landscapes affect people.

Standard 2: Students will understand the contributions of Native American Indians, explorers, and Utah's pioneers.

Objective 1: Examine the contributions of Native American Indians to the culture of Utah.

Indicators:

- a. Identify prehistoric and historic Native American Indian groups.
- b. Examine the interrelationship between each culture and its environment.
- c. Investigate spiritual, artistic, architectural, and oral traditions of Utah's Native American Indians; e.g., languages, storytelling, pottery, basketry, weaving, beadwork, and dwellings.
- d. Identify how Native American Indian heritage influences Utah today.

Objective 2: Investigate the importance of explorers to Utah's settlement.

Indicators:

- a. Explain the contributions of the Spanish, mountain men, government, and scientific explorers.
- b. Identify other explorers who contributed to our understanding of Utah.

Objective 3: Describe the significance of pioneers in Utah history. Explain the reasons for the Mormon migration to Utah.

Indicators:

- a. Explore the pattern of Mormon settlement throughout the West.
- b. Recognize how the Mormon pioneers' heritage influences Utah today.
- c. Investigate the contributions of Utah's "new pioneers," i.e., ethnic, multicultural, religious, scientific, and technological groups.

TEACHER BACKGROUND:

Students often need direct instruction on how to read a map, including the representations of land and water forms, labeling, scale, and orientation. Students can draw conclusions about the purposes of the maps as well as other perspectives different maps may present. The Utah Lake maps offer a way to compare and contrast different representations of both land and water features as well as the various purposes for mapping.

TEACHER MATERIALS:

- Dominquez/Escalante Map (1776)
- Utah Territory Survey Map (1856)
- Utah Geological Survey Map (2006)

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- Utah Valley State College map of the lake
- Utah Lake Commission municipalities map
- Google maps or MapQuest
- Ancient map of Utah Lake
- Early map of Utah Lake

STUDENT MATERIALS:

- Internet access

PROCEDURE:

1. Ask the students, “Why do we need maps?” Brainstorm and list the purposes and possibilities for mapping that show the relationship between the geography, land use, the economy, and the settlement of Utah’s lands.

Possible answers include:

- To tell us where we are;
 - To show the different land forms or water forms;
 - To guide us in traveling;
 - To tell us who owns what;
 - To encourage or advertise travel or tourism;
 - To record a country’s region;
 - To show movement in battles;
 - To identify addresses; and
 - To show elevation and terrain.
2. Introduce how the concept of maps has changed through the ages. Tell students they will see maps made during various periods of history.
 - a. Ask the students how these maps would have influenced early settlers.
 3. Introduce the students to Google Earth or Google Maps and its tools. Allow them time to explore and make connections between geography, land use, the economy, and the settlement of Utah’s lands around Utah Lake. Have them toggle between the satellite and map views to see how different parts of the map are displayed.
 4. Have the students make a list of the different connections between geography, land use, the economy, and the settlement of Utah’s lands that they found.

ASSESSMENT:

- The list of connections.

EXTENSIONS:

- Have students look at other areas in the country or world using Google Maps.

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QUESTIONS FOR MAP SCAVENGER HUNT

Teacher: Give the questions below orally. Students work through each question and when ready, raise their hands. You can tally which group was first, then which group came up with the correct (or reasonable) inference, and which group was the most creative in their interpretation of the map facts.

Questions:

1. You are a pioneer, first to come to Utah County to settle. At what part of the lake shore do you want to settle that will get you away from the Utes, but close enough to the lake for fishing?
2. In a flood year, on what part of the lake shore do you NOT want to have a farm?
3. You want to be able to tell a friend how many miles Lindon is from Springville. Which Map is the best and why? How can you measure distances on the map?
4. What would be the shape of Utah Lake if the Spanish Fork River dried up or was diverted and did not contribute to the size of the lake? (Hint: Find where Spanish Fork River enters the lake and change the outline there).
5. You want a great mountain retreat with a westerly view of the lake. Which mountain range would you select to build your mansion? Determine a particular place on a map where you would live.
6. You want to demonstrate that Utah Lake is a freshwater lake and it is deep in one area. Find a place using the maps that seem to show depth and freshwater make-up of the lake.
7. If you were to build a road around the lake, and it would cost a dollar a foot, how would you determine the perimeter of the lake and how much would it cost? Which map would best represent this road?
8. You are asked to rename Utah Lake, using the name of some water feature that is nearby. What seems to be the most logical new name for the lake?
9. Marshes and wetlands do not allow farmers to grow crops. Which area of the lake shore would be the poorest land to farm?
10. Sometimes, maps do a good job showing the vegetation of a region. You want the most accurate representation of areas that can grow good alfalfa to advertise land sales to dairy farmers. Which areas close to the lake seem to be best for farming alfalfa?
11. Summing it up: Write in your group three important things you learned about reading a map.

MAP SCAVENGER HUNT GAME

Instructions: Use any of the maps of Utah Lake (besides the Google ones) to find and infer certain things from the maps. Discuss these answers (quietly) with your group to come to one or two good answers to write down. Be ready to defend your answer to the class.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

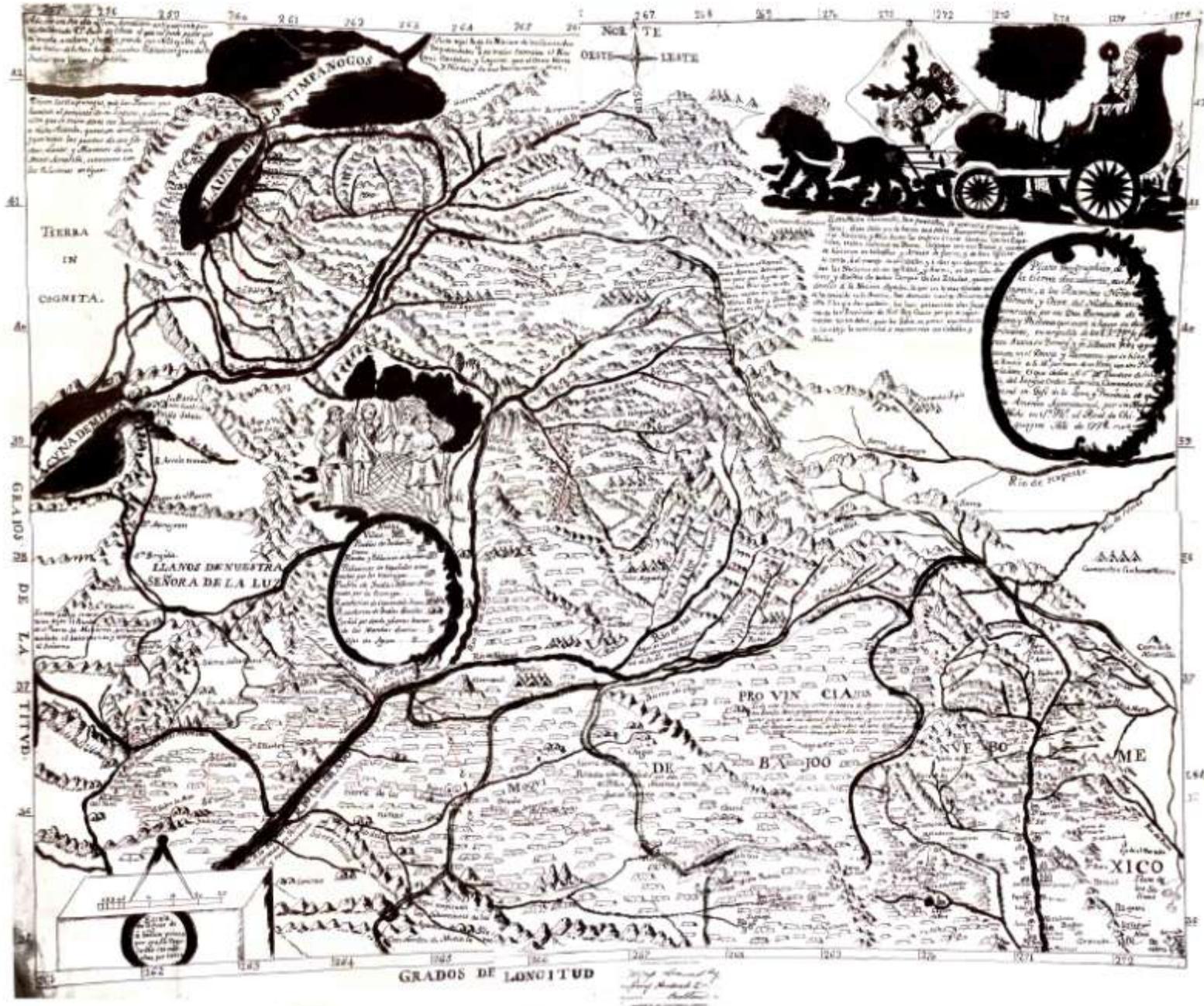
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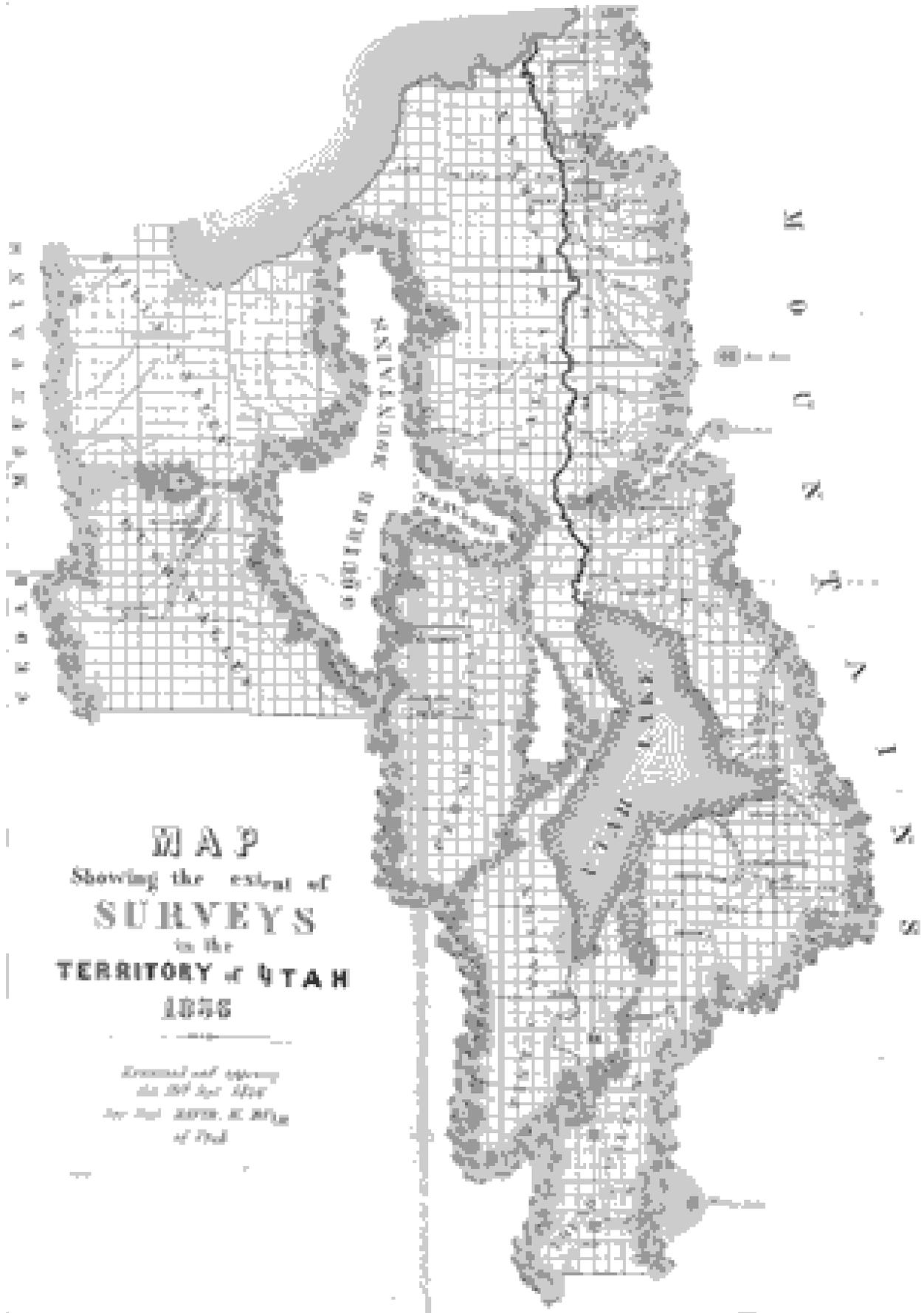
9.

10.

DOMINGUEZ / ESCALANTE MAP - 1776



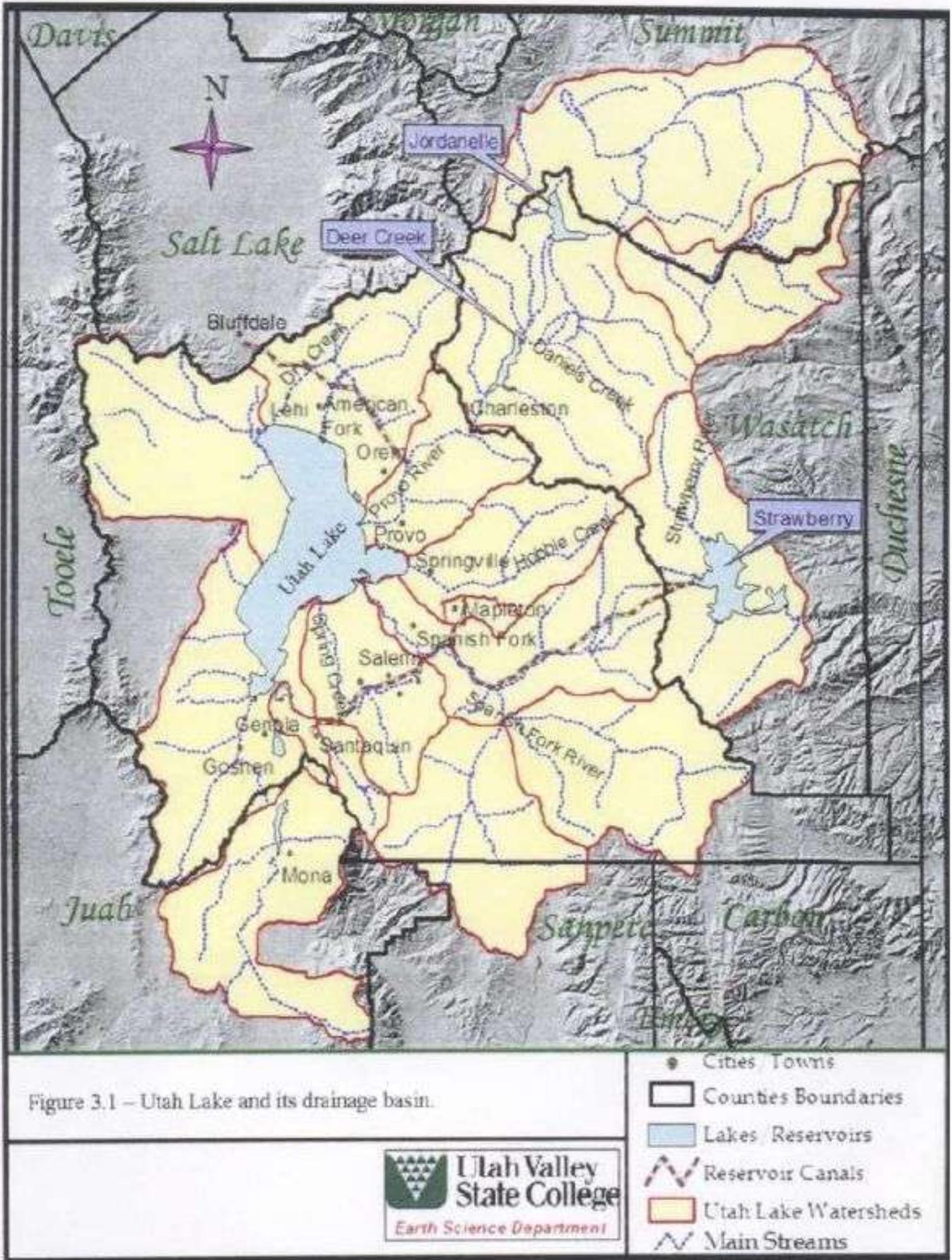
MAP OF UTAH LAKE -- 1856



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP OF UTAH LAKE -- 2006



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY MAP OF UTAH LAKE



UTAH LAKE COMMISSION MASTER PLAN MAP -- 2008



ANCIENT MAP OF UTAH LAKE



EARLY MAP OF UTAH LAKE

