

UTAH LAKE RESORTS

TEACHER BACKGROUND:

With the development of “pleasure resorts,” as they were called in the late 1800s, came an awakening of a new side of popular culture. People discovered that the refreshing waters of the Provo River and Utah Lake could be enjoyed for relaxation and fun. These new resorts were inspired by existing leisure spots around the Great Salt Lake, but they found their niche in promoting invigorating freshwater bathing. More than 20 resorts have been in operation around Utah Lake, including the big three: Saratoga, Geneva, and Provo Lake resorts. Other popular recreation sites included Utah Lake Resort (also well known as American Fork Resort), Lehi (Murdock) Lake Resort, and Provona Beach Resort. As the recreation business became more competitive, it was not unusual for a resort to close, and then find a second or third life under new ownership and a different name.

Due to its close proximity to the Provo-Orem metropolitan area, Utah Lake is a popular destination. From the 1880s to the 1930s, up to twelve resorts dotted the lake offering boat rentals, picnic facilities, dance halls, swimming pools, and bath houses. The most popular and longest lived resort was Saratoga Springs, located on the north shore. Saratoga Springs was best known for its natural hot springs, but also had waterslides and amusement park rides. It lasted from the 1860s until the floods of 1984. Today, fishing, water skiing, boating, camping, picnicking, and wildlife watching are the most popular activities. The main marina for Utah Lake is located at Utah Lake State Park on the lake's eastern shore. Other marinas are located at Saratoga Springs, American Fork, Lindon, and Lincoln Beach.

The lake is an important recreation resource, with the Utah Lake State Park at Provo, Saratoga resort near the inlet to the Jordan River, and several marinas providing access for boaters, fishermen, water skiers, ice skaters, hunters, and other users. The lake shores and surrounding valley floor are home to nearly 250,000 people.

VOCABULARY: *(Note: Some of the resorts might have additional unknown vocabulary words; monitor the students when they split up into their groups.):*

Resort: A place where people go for fun or relaxation.

Cruise: To sail from place to place.

Recreation: Something done for amusement or relaxation.

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OBJECTIVE:

Introduce students to the entertainment and activities found at Utah Lake during the late 1800s.

TEACHER MATERIALS:

- *Utah Lake: Legacy* video clip
 - Chapter 4 ([YouTube Link](#))
 - Chapter 4, Part 1 ([UEN Link](#)); Part 2 ([UEN Link](#))
 - A short 8 second clip is included of the SS Sho-Boat to introduce the lesson. ([YouTube Link](#)), (See 8 second segment at 5:13-5:21 of this [UEN Link](#))
- Map of 20 Pleasure Resorts from *Utah Lake: Legacy* Book, pg. 85), (pg. 5).
- Chart of Resorts on Utah Lake (Utah Lake Monograph, Series 5, pg. 21), (pg. 6)

STUDENT MATERIALS:

- Poster Board
- Markers
- Map
- Information sheets and pictures for each resort

PROCEDURE:

1. Show the 9-second clip of the SS Sho-Boat from the *Utah Lake: Legacy* video ([YouTube Link](#)), (See 8 second segment at 5:13-5:21 of this [UEN Link](#)).
2. Ask the students to identify where they would find the SS Sho-boat.
 - a. Have students share their ideas of where they think the SS Sho-boat was located.
 - b. Tell the students the SS Sho-boat was found on Utah Lake in the early 1900s.
3. Discussion Points:
 - a. Created during the hard times of the Depression so people would have something fun to do.
 - b. It was 90 feet long and 22 feet wide
 - c. It was the largest and most luxuriously equipped vessel ever to sail on Utah Lake.
 - d. People danced and enjoyed the music played from the stage.
 - e. They served snacks and meals from the galley.
 - f. The first cruise was launched on April 25, 1932.
 - g. It was 50 cents for an adult round-trip ticket.
 - h. It was 25 cents for a child ages seven to fifteen.
 - i. On Sundays, the showboat took passengers to Bird Island.

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- j. This tour was a rare treat during tough times.
4. Explain that in the late 1800s, Utah Lake was known for its entertainment. There were 20 resorts along the lake's edge which held various activities (show map on pg. 5). Explain that the SS Sho-boat transported passengers to the different resorts located along the lake's edge. These resorts had various types of entertainment and activities for the passengers.
 - Show the video clip *Utah Lake: Legacy*—Chapter 4 about the entertainment found at Utah Lake. ([YouTube Link](#)), (Chapter 4, Part 1 ([UEN Link](#)); Part 2 ([UEN Link](#)))
 5. The students will choose one of the following resorts and create a poster to entice the residents of Utah County to come to their resort. Make sure they include the following:
 - a. Resort Name
 - b. Map - highlight the location of the resort on the map
 - c. Activities found at the resort
 - d. Price of admission, if known
 - e. Any other information the group finds interesting

ASSESSMENT:

Group poster including required items.

EXTENSIONS:

- Bring in music from the time period (late 1800s-1900s)
- Teach the students the Charleston
http://www.ehow.com/how_2071535_dance-charleston.html

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

See associated file of Additional References for the following information:

- SS Sho-Boat (Image from Utah Lake State Park)
- Turn of the Century Resorts (Image from Utah Lake Stake Park)
- Current Activities of Utah Lake (Image from Utah Lake State Park)
- Articles on Utah Lake Resorts
- *Utah Lake: Legacy* Book with pictures and information for each resort
 - Saratoga Resort
 - Geneva Resort
 - Garden City Resort
 - Provo Lake Resort
 - Provona Beach
 - Lincoln Beach
 - SS Sho-Boat

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STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Language Arts

Standard 8: Writing- Students write daily to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audience.

Objective 1: Prepare to write by gathering and organizing information and ideas (pre-writing).

Indicators:

c. Identify audience, purpose, and forms for writing.

Objective 6: Write in different forms and genres.

Indicators:

e. Produce functional texts.

f. Share writing with others, incorporating relevant illustrations, photos, charts, diagrams, and/or graphs to add meaning.

Social Studies

Standard 1: Students will understand the relationship between the physical geography in Utah and human life.

Objective 3: Analyze how human actions modify the physical environment.

Indicators:

c. Outline the development of recreation in Utah since 1900.

MAP OF UTAH LAKE RESORTS

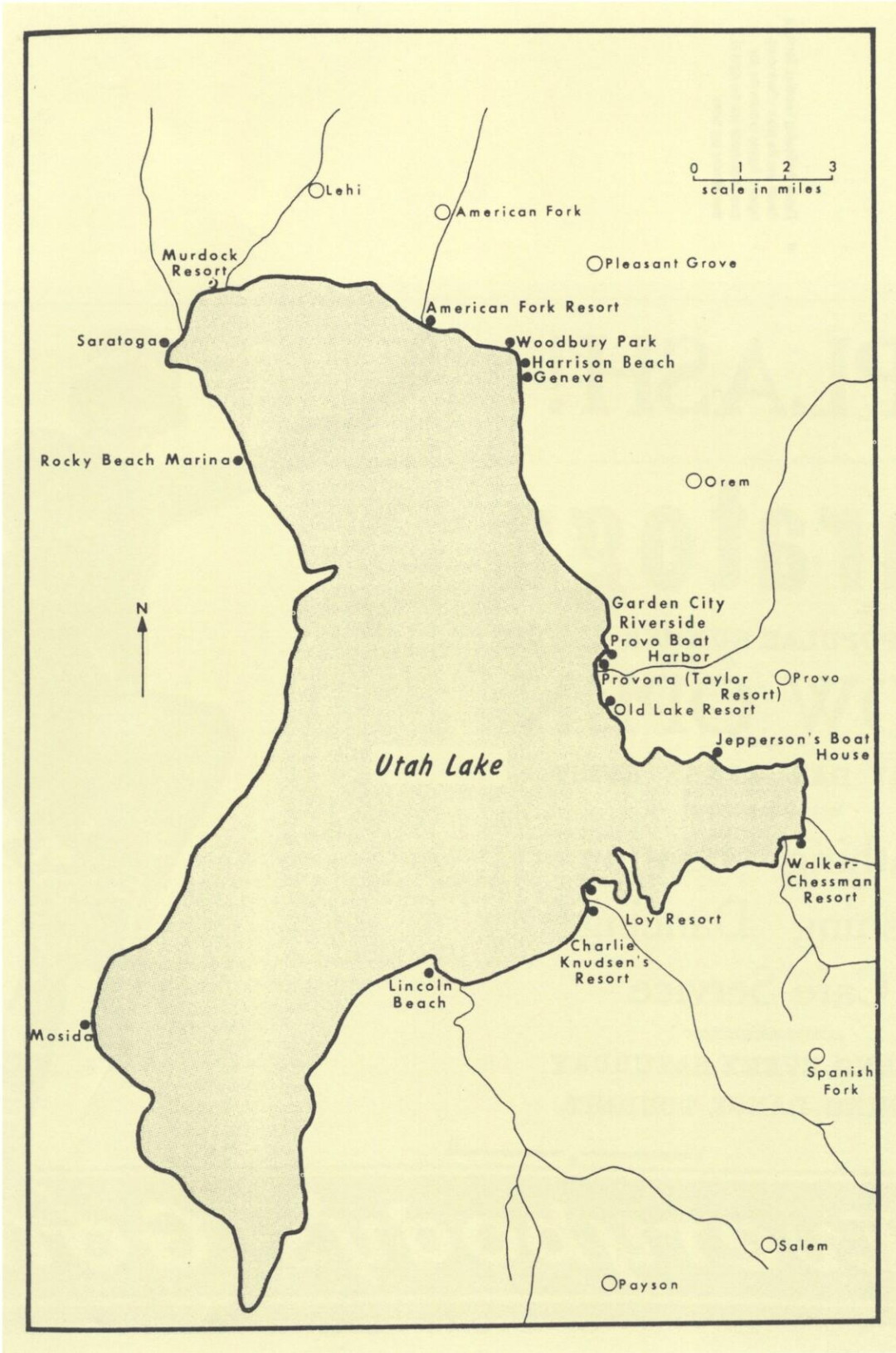


TABLE 4. Resorts on Utah Lake from 1860 to the late 1930s

Saratoga	1860s to present	Baths, swimming pools, pavilions for dancing, picnicking
Walker-Chessman	1870s-early 1900s	Hotel, restaurant, boat rental
Woodbury Park	1880-1888	Summer cottage, bath houses, dance pavilion, boat dock
Old Lake Resort	1883-1907	Pavilion, boat house, ice house, restaurant, bath house, two piers
Geneva	1888-1935	Hotel, saloon, bath houses, pavilion, boat harbor
Lincoln Beach	1889-ca. 1900	Tourist house, swimming pool, store, saloon, dance pavilion
American Fork Resort	1892-1930s	Dance hall, pool hall, piers, picnic facilities, cafe, bath houses
Mindock Resort	1894-ca. 1900	Dance pavilion, picnic facilities, bath houses
Jepperson's Boat House	1890s-1920	Picnic facilities, piers, boat harbor, boat yard, refreshment stands
Knudsens' Resort	1913-ca. 1918	Boat rentals, fishing equipment rental, picnic facilities
Loy Resort	1913-1925	Boat rentals, picnic tables, bathing facilities
Provona (Taylor Resort)	1825-1930s	Store, dance hall, 30 cabins, bath houses, picnic facilities

Source: Glen R. Huber, "The Attitude of the People of Utah County Towards Utah Lake as a Recreational Site," Thesis, BYU, 1972, p. 27-35.