

Hello, Utah!

A story-based geography unit

Please enjoy these sample pages from *Hello, Utah*. Included in this sample, you'll find an excerpt of one of Thaddeus's journal entries, an activity sheet, and a reflection sheet.

STARRING
THADDEUS



? Did You Know?

Since the arrival of the earliest settlers, most of Utah's population has resided on the **Wasatch Front**, a narrow strip of land at the base of the Wasatch Mountains, an important source of water, timber, and granite. Over two-thirds of Utah's residents still live in the connected cities and towns on the Wasatch Front, which represents only 4.3% of Utah's total land area. That means over 95% of Utah is barely populated!



The salt in the Great Salt Lake made me float, Meow! Just picture it: all three of us floating on our backs with nothing above us but blue sky and the sound of gulls. Tonight's bath is going to taste *really* awful ... but what does that matter when you've had a salty adventure like this one?! (Also: have you ever seen a floating horse? Definitely not to be missed if you get the chance.)

 Thaddeus

★ Time for a paws! ★

Flip to page 16 and do today's activities.
Pick up on the next journal entry tomorrow!

DAY 2 — TRAILS, TREES, TERRAIN

Timeline:

7:00 a.m. — Good morning, Meow! It's dawn and I was just awakened by the impatient clacking of claws and hooves on the crusty shore by our campsite. Patches says he has a surprise for me, but his secret smile is making me nervous ... what do you think it could be? Never mind—I am an **intrepid** traveler and **I am always prepared for anything!**

★★★★

8:00 a.m. — I was not prepared for this thing, Meow!

It all started fine: we swung into Gallagher's saddle and galloped eastward, skirting the edges of Utah's capital, **Salt Lake City**.

We barely slowed down through canyons and mountain passes, galloping on until we arrived in **Park City**. As

I raised my gaze, I was dazzled by the **grandeur** of the **Wasatch Mountains** rising before me—and

I was shocked to see ski slopes still covered in late-season snow! You haven't lived until you've burrowed your face into freezing white powder! So *this* was the surprise, I thought—but NO. I tunneled out of the snow once more to find Patches holding two slippery sticks ... which he then *strapped to my paws*. As I skidded down the slope, my caterwaul echoed off the cliffs:

★★ Cats do not ski-i-i-i-i-i! ★★

★ DAY 1 ACTIVITY — BUOYANCY EXPERIMENTS

INTRODUCTION

When Thaddeus stepped into the Great Salt Lake, **he floated!** Why? Because salt adds *buoyancy* to the water! Buoyancy is the force that allows objects to float or rise in a fluid like water. It's determined by the object's density compared to the fluid's density. If an object is denser than the fluid, it will sink. You can increase the buoyancy of water by adding salt to it, so that things that would otherwise sink suddenly begin to float!

Let's learn more about buoyancy by conducting two experiments and recording observations on lab reports.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Here is a list of items you will need to perform both experiments. Items marked with a star (★) are optional. If you don't have some of these items, don't worry. You can use other small items on hand or just skip them entirely.



SALT



TABLESPOON



TALL GLASS



EGG



SPOON



TAP WATER



CORN SYRUP



COOKING OIL



★ FOOD DYE



★ PLASTIC BOTTLE CAP



★ GRAPE



★ CARROT SLICE



★ POTATO SLICE



★ RAISIN



★ PAPER CLIP

★ DAY 2 ACTIVITY — TYPES OF LANDFORMS IN UTAH

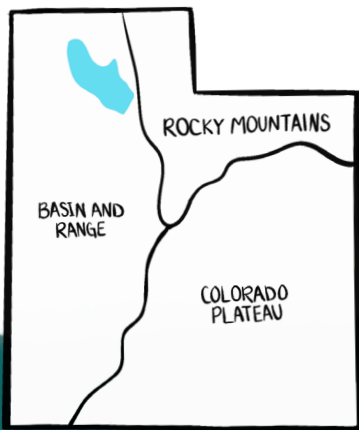
INSTRUCTIONS

If you haven't done so already, print pages 27-28 back-to-back.




1. Cut out the booklet along the dotted lines.
2. Put the pages in order and staple where indicated to create a booklet.
3. Read through the booklet and follow directions where indicated.

Utah's Landforms

Utah is divided into three geological provinces with different landforms. Using the key below, color in the regions of Utah with the correct color.



KEY:

-  Basin and Range
-  Rocky Mountains
-  Colorado Plateau

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS



A **mountain** is a huge stone slab that rises at least 1,000 feet (304.8 m) above its environment. Formed by glaciers, volcanos, and erosion, mountains have steep, slanted sides and jagged or curved peaks.



A **hill** is an elevated area of land that is smaller than a mountain. Hills generally have gentle slopes and rounded summits.

Fun Fact: There are 421 named mountains in the Wasatch Range.

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PLATEAUS, MESAS, BUTTES



A **plateau** is a large elevated landmass with a flat top and cliffs on at least one side.



A **mesa** is a portion of a plateau that has been eroded by water and has cliffs on all sides. It is wider than it is tall.



A **butte** is a mesa that has been further eroded until it is taller than it is wide.

Fun Fact: The Colorado Plateau spans 240,000 square miles (386,242 km) and straddles four states: Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

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VALLEYS AND PLAYAS



A **valley** is a long, low area between two hills or mountains that often has a river flowing through it. Most valleys are formed by river erosion or glaciation and often feature fertile soil and vegetation.



A **playa** (or dry lake bed) is a flat, dry basin found at the lowest point in desert regions. After heavy rains, playas fill with water that then evaporates, leaving behind layers of silt, clay, or salt.

Fun Fact: The Bonneville Salt Flats are a famous example of a playa.

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★ DAY 3 REFLECTIONS

SPEAKING

Which is your favorite adventure in Utah and why? Which adventure interests you the least? Why?

LISTENING AND COMPREHENSION

1. Why does Thaddeus say “I totally meant to do that” when he falls off of Gallagher’s back into the river?
2. Why are the Coral Pink Sand Dunes pink in color? (*Answer: They are formed by the erosion of pink Navajo sandstone.*)
3. What does Thaddeus mean when he says that seeing the layers of colors in the rock is like seeing “the history of the Earth written into the land itself”?

WRITING

In writing, the *point of view* of a story refers to which character is telling the story. For example, Thaddeus has lots of adventures and he loves to write about them in his journal entries. That means we hear about the experience from Thaddeus’s *point of view*. But did you ever wonder how his travel companions would describe the same adventure? Now it’s time to find out!

Choose one adventure from Thaddeus’s travels through Utah (such as skiing or swimming in the salt lake or exploring a canyon). Then write a journal entry about that adventure from the *point of view* of either Patches the crayfish or Gallagher the horse. Let’s see what they have to say about it!

Adventure: _____

Point of View (Patches or Gallagher): _____

Dear Journal:

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If you and your student would like to continue Thaddeus's journey through the beautiful state of Nevada be sure to check out the complete *Hello, Utah!* unit with over 30 pages of educational fun that makes geography exciting and memorable.

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