

UTE LEADERS INFLUENCE UTAH

After completing the procedures described in the FITC lesson called Ute Leaders Influence Utah (available at the website below) discuss the following with your students.

Discussion questions:

1. How did Mormon settlers influence the day to day lives of the Utes?

Settlers took the best land and killed the best game, using it up and leaving an inadequate supply for the Utes. The Mormons also brought diseases that the natives did not have immunity to.

2. How did the language barrier influence the relationship between Mormons and Utes?

The Mormons and Utes could not communicate, which also means they could not resolve conflict. One group acted as trade, the other acted as war. The Mormons took land and game, so the Indians took their cattle and livestock.

3. How did the invasion of the Mormons influence the economy that the Utes were used to?

The decisions that Utes made regarding how they handled the Mormons taking their land were based on promises of payment from the government. They would sign treaties and make agreements, keep their promises, and never receive payment. Utes initially learned to accept gifts of cattle and supplies, but as negotiations continued, they lost trust and were forced to become farmers rather than hunters and gatherers.