



Investing & Utah's Economic Growth Lesson

Part 1: Primary and Secondary Source Comparison:

Utah Core: Expansion (1847-1896) Standard 4.3.7

Instructions: Read the sources below and fill out the T-chart.

Primary Source (Excerpt from 1870 Newspaper, Utah Territory):

"With the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, our merchants can now ship goods to San Francisco in a matter of days instead of weeks. Local farms and mines are seeing new buyers across the country."

Secondary Source (Modern Textbook Summary):

"The Transcontinental Railroad transformed Utah's economy by connecting local businesses to national markets. Transportation and communication improvements allowed for faster trade, increased profits, and greater economic interdependence between Utah and other states."

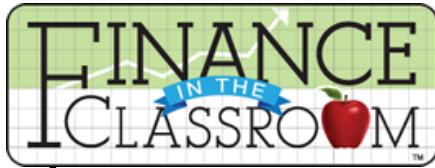
What the Primary Source Tells Me:	What the Secondary Source Adds / Explains:

Questions:

How did the railroad help Utah businesses?

What words in the primary source tell you that trade was faster or easier?

How do these sources show economic interdependence?



Part 2: Investment Simulation

Instructions:

Imagine you are a business owner in Utah in 1870. You start with \$10. You can invest in one of these businesses:

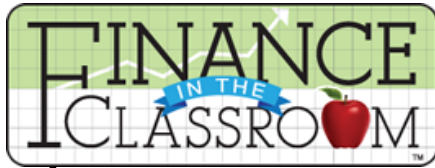
- Farming (growth: +\$1 per year)
- Mining (growth: +\$2 per year)
- Shipping via Railroad (growth: +\$3 per year)

Track your investment over 5 “years”:

Year	Investment Choice	Amount Gained	Total Money
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Questions:

1. Which investment grew the most? Why?
2. How is this similar to businesses using the railroad in Utah?
3. How does “investing” over time help your money (or business) grow?



Answer Key:

1. What does it mean to invest your money?

Answer: Investing means using your money to buy something that can grow in value over time, like stocks, bonds, or a savings account.

2. Why is it better to save and invest your money for a long time?

Answer: The longer money is saved or invested, the more it can grow because of interest or earnings over time. Small amounts added over many years can become much larger.

3. Give an example of something you could invest in.

Answer: Stocks, bonds, a savings account, a business, or real estate.

4. How did the Transcontinental Railroad change Utah's economy?

Answer:

- It made it easier to move goods and people across the country.
 - Utah businesses could sell their products to other states.
 - New jobs were created in transportation, mining, and trade.
 - Communities became more connected to each other and to the rest of the country.
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5. What does “economic interdependence” mean?

Answer: Economic interdependence means that different regions or communities rely on each other for goods, services, and trade. Utah depended on other states for products, and other states depended on Utah for things like mining and agriculture.



6. Draw a simple timeline showing money growth over time if you invest \$100 each year for 5 years at 5% interest.

Answer (example calculation):

- Year 1: $\$100 \times 1.05 = \105
- Year 2: $\$105 + \$100 = \$205 \times 1.05 = \215.25
- Year 3: $\$215.25 + \$100 = \$315.25 \times 1.05 = \331.01
- Year 4: $\$331.01 + \$100 = \$431.01 \times 1.05 = \452.56
- Year 5: $\$452.56 + \$100 = \$552.56 \times 1.05 = \580.19

So after 5 years, \$500 invested grows to about **\$580**.

7. Explain in one sentence how Utah became more connected to other parts of the country because of transportation networks.

Answer: Utah became more connected because trains, roads, and communication lines allowed goods, people, and information to move quickly to and from other states.

