

## Winter Sports History

### Utah Resources

What do mining and skiing have in common? Both were important factors in the growth of Utah. Both are included in the exciting history of Park City.

### Silver Mining

At one time, Park City mines were some of the richest in the United States! Silver mines, discovered in Park City, brought wealth, power, influence and opportunity to a few lucky men. While most miners remained poor and worked in dangerous conditions underground, a few used luck, hard work and knowledge to become extremely rich! One of these miners was Thomas Kearns. Kearns was a teenager when he left home to seek his fortune in the mines. After arriving in Park City, he first worked as a mucker (a poor worker who shoveled ore into the underground ore wagons). He used his knowledge of mining and ore veins to stake a claim in a mine that he thought might be rich in silver. His hunch proved to be correct, and he became a millionaire! The Silver King Mine, in Park City, provided this Irish Catholic miner with great wealth and power. At the beginning of the 1900's, successful miners like, Thomas Kearns, changed the image of downtown Salt Lake City by building fabulous mansions on South Temple. The Kearns Mansion, an elegant reminder of Park City's exciting past, was donated to the state and is now Utah's Governor's Mansion. The economic resources that came from mining led to great growth for Salt Lake City and the state of Utah.

### Winter Sports

The development of downhill skiing and ski jumping began as early as the 1920's and 1930's. Skiers used to ski at Pinecrest, in Emigration Canyon, a few miles east of Salt Lake City. Becker Hill, not far from the 2002 ski jump, was also a popular spot. The organization of ski clubs and ski teams, at Brighton and Alta, marked the expansion of the ski industry in Utah. The old mining town of Park City was reborn as a modern ski resort. The buildings, which provided homes, stores, saloons, hospitals and churches used by miners, are now visited by tourists interested in shopping, skiing and enjoying the Old West atmosphere.

### History of Skiing

#### 1920's

Brighton was a favorite retreat from the summer heat for the early settlers of Salt Lake City. In the 1920's, the Wasatch Mountain Club encouraged hiking and ski touring. The foothills of Salt Lake City attracted groups of spectators, watching skiers jump from the small rolling hills.

#### 1930's

Professional jumping contests were promoted with great interest! It was during this period that Utahns were first introduced to the Engen brothers. Alf and his brother Sverre jumped at Becker Hill in the very first contest held there. They were later joined by their younger brother Corey in 1933, and the three put on shows for spectators during the 1930's and 1940's with their daring moves and great skill.

<b>1937</b>	The county commission was persuaded to plow the road in Big Cottonwood Canyon to allow for year-round traffic. The Alpine Ski Club was formed. Using an elevator drum, a rough cable tow was created in the Brighton area. The Salt Lake City Winter Sports Association was formed.
<b>1938</b>	The T-bar cable tow was put in place, and a group of skiers in Alta built Utah's first lift. Alta opened for its first ski season.
<b>Late 1930's</b>	Snow Basin in Ogden Canyon opened. Timpshaven in Provo Canyon opened.
<b>1958</b>	Solitude ski area in Big Cottonwood Canyon opened.
<b>1960</b>	Timpshaven was sold to Robert Redford and renamed Sundance.
<b>1963</b>	Brian Head ski area in the mountain tops above Cedar City (in southern Utah) opened. Park City ski area opened.
<b>Early 1970's</b>	Powder Mountain near Ogden and Mount Holly-Elk Meadows near Beaver opened.
<b>1971</b>	Snowbird ski resort opened.
<b>1981</b>	Deer Valley ski resort opened.

## Questions and Activities (PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE)

### SOCIAL STUDIES: Natural History of Utah

- ▶ Do you know the names of the Olympic Mascots? Copper, Coal and Powder are also the names of three natural resources found in the state. Where can you find copper, coal and "powder" in Utah?

### HISTORY: Miner's Child

- ▶ Park City has an interesting history. First it was a mining town, and now, it is an upscale ski resort and tourist site. Write a story as if you were a child of a miner in old time Park City. What would be your fears? What would you do for fun? What might your dreams be?

### SCIENCE: Beat you to the Top

- ▶ Skiing was a popular sport with people who didn't mind hiking up the hill in order to ski back down. In order for the sport to grow, inventors needed to find a way to get people to the top of the mountain! The rope tow, T bar and ski lift were invented to solve this problem. Use your creative thinking to think of three new ways to transport skiers to the top of a ski run.