



Mormon History

January 30, 2011

This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about the History of the Mormons. It is incumbent that all seniors in High School should have some basic knowledge concerning one of the largest and most influential religious movements in the United States. It is designed for the High School student.

Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills: United States History - 1850 to Present High School

Standard 1: The student will demonstrate process skills in social studies.

1. Identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources (e.g., artifacts, diaries, letters, photographs, documents, newspapers, media, and computer-based technologies).
- *2. Recognize and explain how different points of view have been influenced by nationalism, racism, religion, culture and ethnicity.
- *6. Develop discussion, debate, and persuasive writing and speaking skills, focusing on enduring issues (e.g., individual rights vs. the common good, and problems of intolerance toward cultural, ethnic, and religious groups), and demonstrating how divergent viewpoints have been and continue to be addressed and reconciled.

An introduction to this topic can be found in the following two books:

- *Building the Kingdom: A History of Mormons in America*, by Claudia Lauper Bushman and Richard Lyman Bushman (2001)
*This book gives a short but broad perspective on the early history of the Mormon movement. An easy to read book, but with enough depth the reader will be able to gain much insight into this religious, political, and social movement.
- *By the Hand of Mormon: The American Scripture That Launched a New World Religion*, by Terry L. Givens (2002)
*This well researched book gives a history of the founders and also covers points that give proof that Mormonism has become a new world religion.

Search Aids

Key Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Mormon OR Mormonism
- John Smith
- "Abraham Lincoln" AND "Mormons"
- "Mormons" AND "Civil War"
- Utah AND Mormons
- Brigham Young

Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Mormon
- Utah

Call Number

- 289.3 (Dewey Decimal)
- E840 (Library of Congress)

Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCO HOST
- First Search
- EHistory Archives

Library catalogs

- Stillwater Public Library, Stillwater Oklahoma
- Edmon Low Library Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Library of Congress, Washington D.C. USA

Search Strategies

- I used Boolean logic in my searches for specific details. For example I used “Mormon” AND “Civil War” to receive hits concerning the Civil War and Mormon activities during the Civil war. As you work on this pathfinder try using Boolean logic to find something unique concerning Mormons. Just type Mormon AND _____ fill in the blank with what ever interest you. For example you could type politics and you should have several hits concerning Mormon political activity.

Key Resources at a Glance

- <http://lds.org/?lang=eng>
*This is the website of the largest branch of Mormons. This site gives insights into the beliefs of the Mormon Church. It is essentially a Mormon site and links to many other Mormon sites.
- <http://www.historynet.com/utah-war-us-government-versus-mormon-settlers.htm>
*This site gives a description of the Mormon war with the U.S. Government.

Reference Background

- *The Mormon Rebellion, America's First Civil War 1857 to 1858*, by David Bigler and Will Bagley (2011)
*U.S. Troops are ordered to remove Utah Territorial Governor Brigham Young from office and thus began what is called by some American's First Civil War.
- http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Encyclopedia_of_Mormonism
*This online encyclopedia is published by Macmillan Publishing with assistance from Brigham Young University.
- http://web.archive.org/web/20050320123704/college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_061300_mormons.htm
*This site will take you to a Mormon founding article with biographical links to both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. A very clear thumbnail sketch of the early Mormon History.

Resources

Books

- *No Man Knows my History: The Life of Joseph Smith*, by Fawn M. Brodie (1945)
*One of the most important biographies of Joseph Smith written by a Mormon and yet very objective. This book caused many to leave the Mormon Church and is not looked at very favorable by the majority of Mormons.
- *Brigham Young American Moses*, by Edward Anderson (1985)
*This biography covers Young's life but focuses on his leadership of the Mormons to Utah.
- *Book of Mormon*, by Joseph Smith (1830)
*This is the scripture for the Mormon believers and considered transcribed by Joseph Smith.

- *Indian Legends with a Comparison between The Books of Mormon History and Various Indian Legends*, by J.W. Lesueur (1928)
*This wonderful title, though nearly one-hundred years old, looks at the possibilities of Joseph Smith studying and defining the American Indian Myths and using this study as a resource for the Book of Mormon.

Journals

- Abraham Lincoln and the Mormons, *The Journal of American History*, Issue 963, (2008)
*Communications between the Leaders of the Mormon Church and President Lincoln during the Civil War.
- Displaced from Zion: Mormons and Indians in the 19th Century, *Historically Speaking*, Vol. 10, Number 1, (Jan. 2009), pp. 40-42.
*Early Mormon thought on displacement of Native Americans.

Magazine Articles

- *Time Magazine*
(June 13, 1994) Vol. 143, No. 24
*Religious section of magazine. Article concerning replacement of Mormon Elder Ezra Benson

Web Pages and Web Portals

- Truth Net
www.truthnet.org/Christianity/Cults/Mormon7/
*This web site gives counter views of Mormonism.
- LDS Mission Network
www.mission.net/
*A web site designed to show the mission work of the Mormon movement.

Organizations and Special Collections

- The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints
www.mormon.org/
*This web site is the official publication organization of the Mormon LDS church.
- Mormon Genealogy
www.mormongenealogy.net/
*This web site is a powerful special collection of family genealogies that surpasses any other.

Multimedia Resource

- Mormon Rebellion, (The History Channel, 2007) [DVD]
*This powerful visual reenactment tells the story of the U.S. Governments battle with the early Mormons and their resettlement in Utah.

<http://sde.state.ok.us/Curriculum/PASS/Grade/socstud.pdf>

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**** You can evaluate other resources using criteria at: www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html ****

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