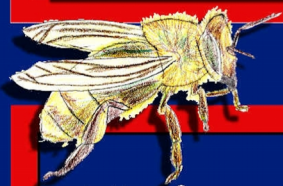
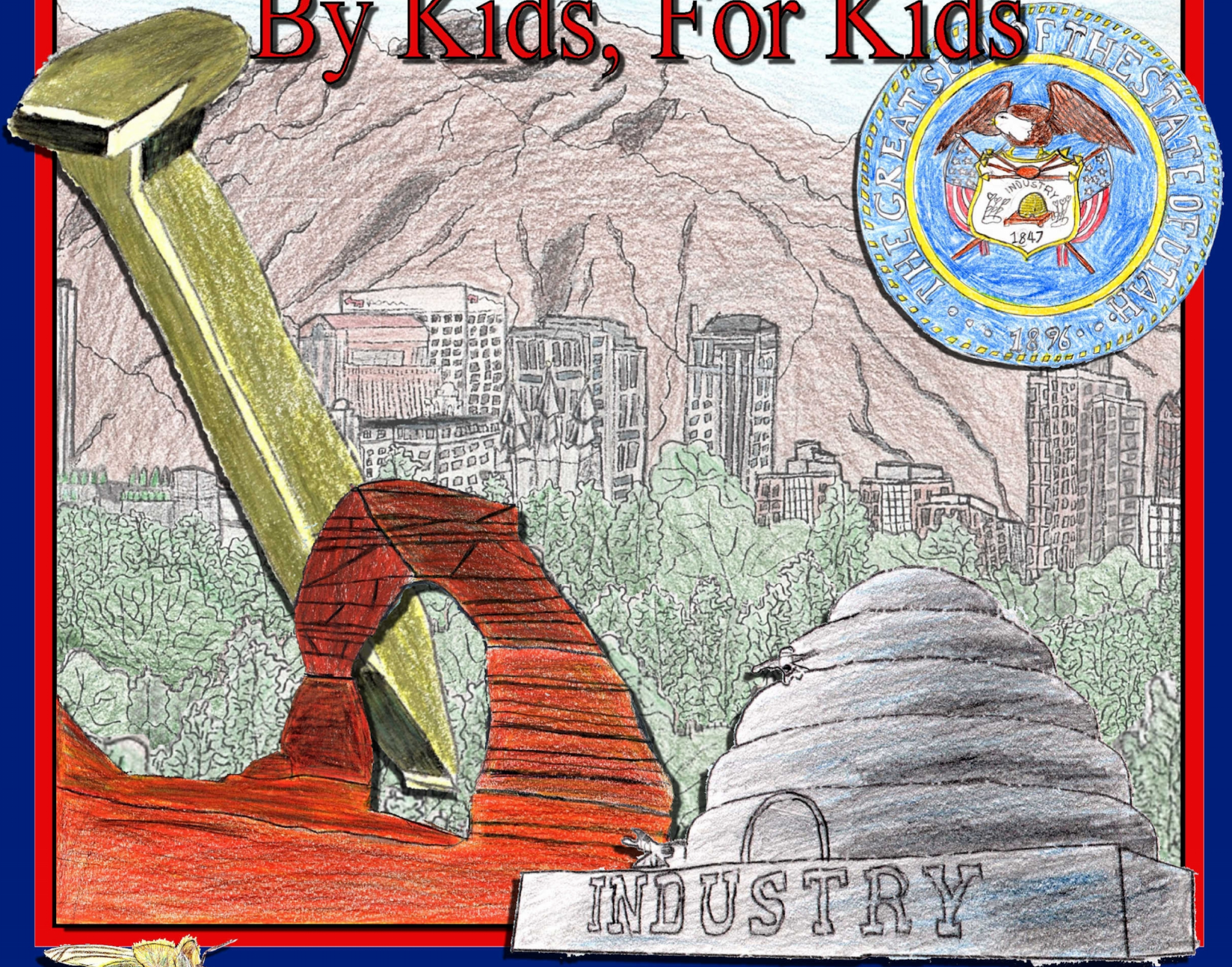
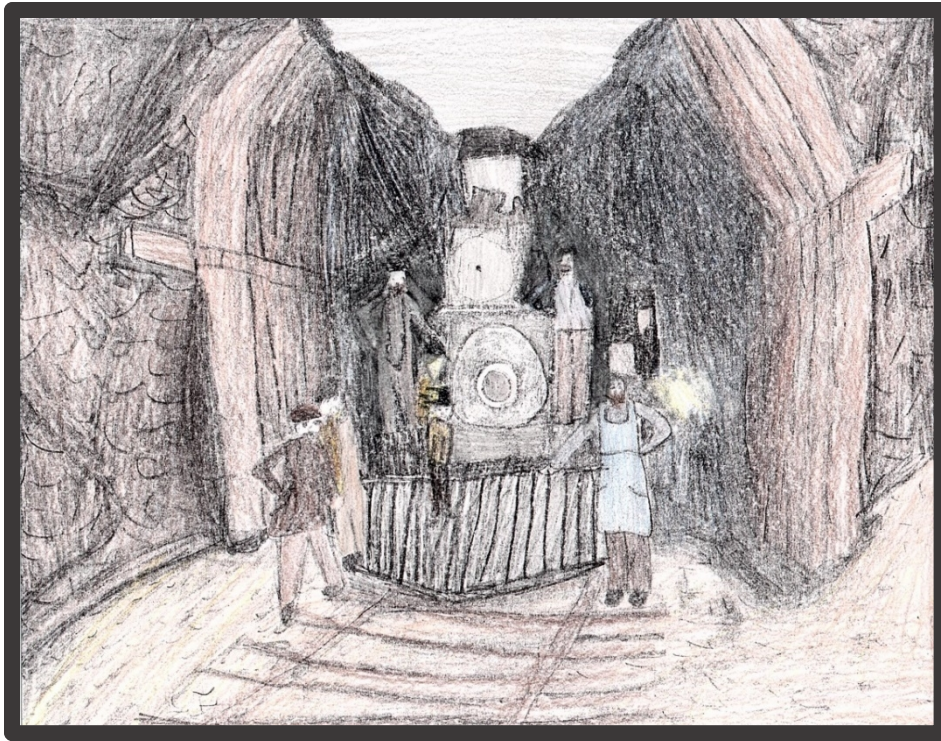


UTAH

By Kids, For Kids



Written and illustrated by the students of
Venture Academy



*Main art by Talia Napoli
Small art by Zackary Hampton*

Golden Spike National Monument

The Golden Spike is a railroad spike that is coated in pure gold and was used in the joining ceremony of the two rails of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Transcontinental Railroad stretched from Sacramento, California, to Omaha, Nebraska. Two railroad companies, the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific, were competing to see who could place the most miles of rail. Central Pacific was owned by Charles Crocker, and the crew was made up of mainly Chinese workers. The Union Pacific was led by a group nicknamed the Big Five, and the workers were Civil War veterans and Irish. The Union Pacific was told to build west through the Native American land, and the Central Pacific was



told to build east through the Sierra Nevada mountains. The two railroad companies decided to connect at Promontory Summit, Utah, and commemorated the occasion by placing a gold spike as the last connecting point on the railroad. There are those who believe that Charles Crocker is the one who hit the Golden Spike into place, but that is just plain wrong! Crocker and the other bigwigs were too drunk to hit the Golden Spike, so it was nailed into place by a worker of the railroad.

Zackary Hampton



*Main art by Scottie Ames, Jr.
Small art by Danika Jacobson*

Greatest Snow on Earth

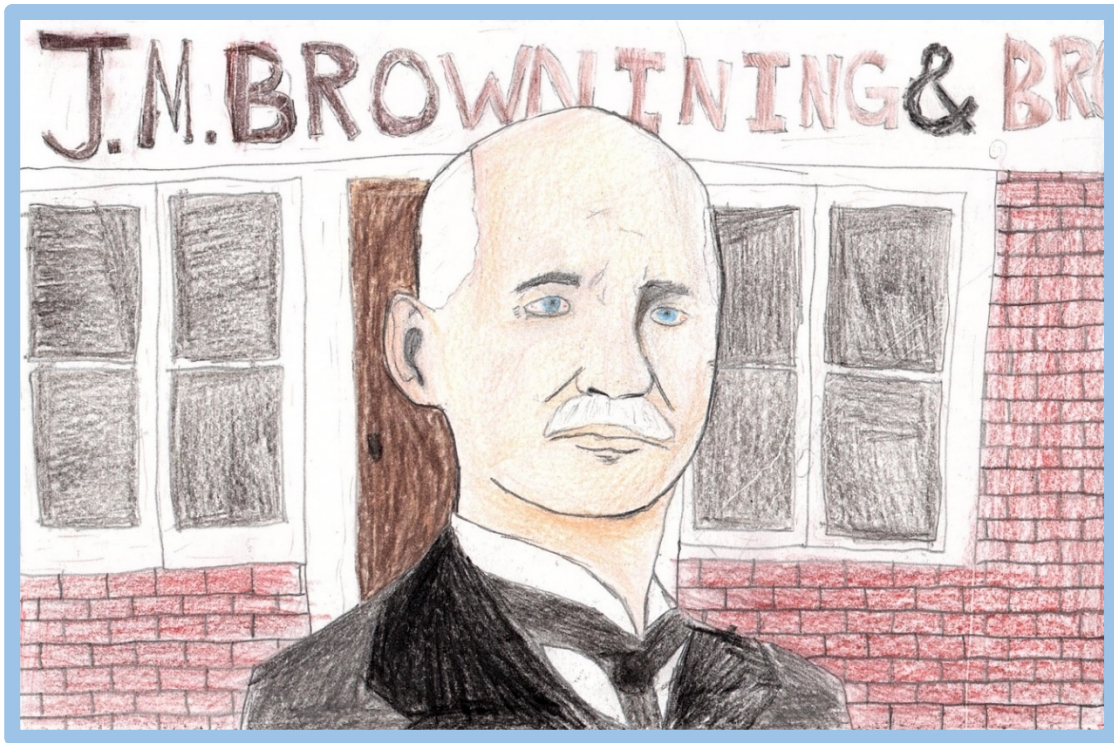
Written on the Utah license plate are the words “Greatest Snow On Earth.” But why is that? It may be the fact that there are 14 ski resorts in Utah, or that Utah gets an average of 500 inches of snow each year. The 14 ski resorts in Utah are Brian Head, Eagle Point, Sundance, Alta, Snowbird, Brighton, Solitude, Deer Valley, Park City Mountain Resort, Canyons, Snowbasin, Powder Mountain, Wolf Mountain, and Beaver Mountain. Over 4.2 million people come to Utah each year to ski or snowboard. Did you know that Utah’s Cottonwood Canyons are one of the snowiest places on earth? One reason why Utah has a lot of snow is because of something called the Lake Effect. When lake water from the

Great Salt Lake evaporates, it rises and cools. When enough moisture builds up, it falls—and if it’s cold enough, it will turn to snow.



Utah’s snow is great to ski on because its density is only 8.5 percent, which means it is very light and fluffy, even powderlike. Historical data shows that January 13 is the “Golden Winter Day” for skiing because it has the highest likelihood of receiving snow out of any day of the year.

Scottie Ames, Jr.



*Main art by Simon Dyer
Small art by Isaac Mortensen*

John M. Browning



John M. Browning was born on January 23, 1855. When he was 10, Browning

constructed his first rifle using only a broken flintlock barrel, a piece of wood, some wire, and scrap tin. Four years later, Browning designed and created another original firearm for his brother, Matt. Later on, he became a gunsmith and was interested in designing and building many more new firearms. Browning got an idea to make a semi-automatic shotgun while watching a friend of his shoot a rifle. After he took a shot, the grass in front of the muzzle was

pushed back by the expanding gases. He wanted to invent a semi-automatic shotgun that would use those expanding gases of a fired shell to re-cock the gun and make it ready for the next shot. John and his brothers began producing this shotgun in their shop in Ogden, Utah. Browning was very satisfied with the sales of his guns. In 1883, Andrew McAusland happened to see one of John's single-shot rifles. He immediately bought one and sent it to Winchester. Winchester offered to manufacture Browning's firearms, and Browning accepted. Winchester still makes Browning's designs today.

Isaac Mortensen

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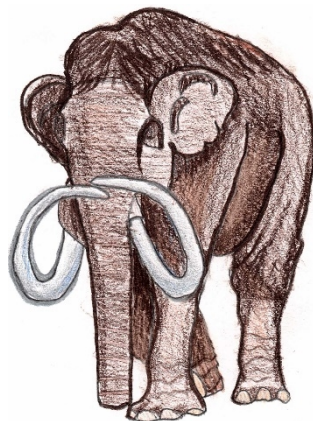
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Main and small art by Cecilia Sundwall

Prehistoric Utah

Because of the things we find in earth layers and geologic formations around the state, it is clear that Utah was a very different place long ago, even a few thousand years ago. For example, many species of dinosaurs have been found in Utah, fossilized in layers of earth in large numbers. From the three-horned Utahceratops to the sickle-clawed Utahraptor, plant-eaters and predators alike have left behind evidence that Utah was once able to support a large population of dinosaurs. Things also were not as dry as they are now. During the Paleozoic era, an ocean covered much of North America. Due to tectonic



movement, mountains formed around a lake that would later be called Lake Bonneville. Permanent lines etched into the mountainside show evidence of this giant lake's shoreline through the ages, and indicate the probability that such a lake eventually drained through the Red Rock

Pass and ultimately made its way to our present-day Pacific Ocean, leaving the Great Salt Lake behind as a reminder of its existence. Utah's climate and landscape has changed greatly since prehistoric times, but we only need to look at the land around us to find the clues that tell us the story of our past.

Cecilia Sundwall & Senna Brandon

Uniquely Utah



Art on this page by Allison Ottensen,
Megan Smout, Keaton De Vries, Ryland Mills,
& Sage Southwick