



Archaeological evidence suggests that the Moab area and surrounding country was inhabited by a tribe of ancient Indians, the Ancestral Puebloans (Anasazi). Moab's present town sits on the ruins of pueblo farming communities dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. The Indians left in the middle of the 13th century for an unknown reason. Nomadic Ute tribes greeted the first Europeans to arrive in the Canyonlands area of Grand County.

The first people to settle in the fertile Spanish Valley, named after the "Old Spanish Trail," which ran through it, were the Mormon Pioneers in 1877. These early settlers, coming in from the north, encountered the Grand River's deep canyon walls (officially renamed the Colorado River in May 1921) and were unable to take wagons over, or around, the steep canyon walls.

Grand County was formed from Emery County and legally became Grand County on March 13, 1890. Moab became an incorporated City in 1902 but was not recognized by the State of Utah as such until 1937 when it had grown to a population 800. The County was named after the name "Grand River" (Colorado River) that flows through its heart.







Grand County is situated on the <u>Colorado Plateau</u> easter Utah at an elevation of 4,025 feet. The plateau includes two-thirds of the State of Utah and parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Composed mostly of <u>sandstone</u> and limestone, the plateau has been eroded by large rivers and other water sources into huge canyons and complex erosional forms that make it a rugged but scenically spectacular region.

Grand County lies on the east side of Utah. To its east border of the State of Colorado. The <u>Green River</u> flows southward through the eastern part of central Utah. Its meandering course defines the western edge of Grand County. The Colorado River enters the east side of Grand County from Colorado. San Juan County is the southern border of Grand. The <u>Dolores River</u> also comes Grand County from Colorado, flowing westward to its <u>confluence</u> with the Colorado River.



The biggest reason Grand County is a <u>tourism</u>-based County is because of the two Nationals Parks and the State Park.



Arches National Park



Canyonlands National Park



<u>Dead Horse Point</u> State Park

Since the 1970s, tourism has played an increasing role in the local economy. Due to the John Ford movies, partly due to magazine articles, the area has become a favorite for star gazing photographers, rafting, rock climbers, hiking, and most recently mountain biking. Moab is also an increasingly popular destination for four-wheelers.

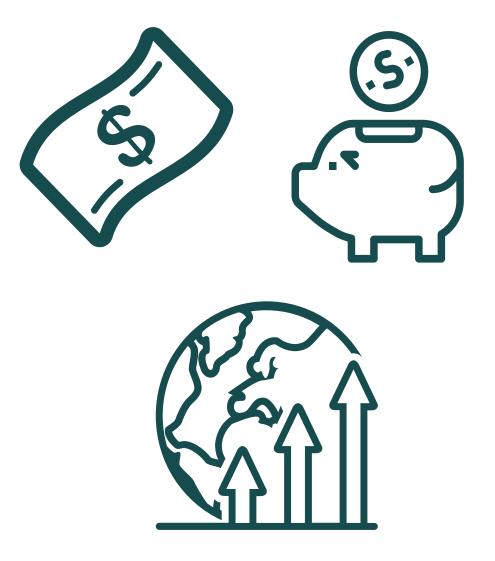




The Discovery of <u>uranium</u> in 1952 began an era of mineral extraction in the county, swelling the population from 3,000 to nearly 10,000 residents in just 3 years. Mining and milling of Uranium, <u>Potash</u>, and salt added to the local economy until 1983 when the uranium market dropped.

Most mining and milling operations ceased at the time.

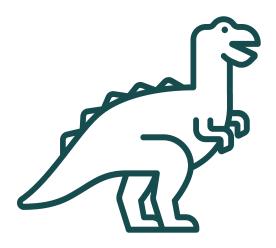
However, oil & gas exploration continued at various levels through the next three decades to the present time. Most recently, income from tourism has been the county's primary economic resource. Though most of the contributions are from Tourism, Grand County has many other workforces.



DINOSAURS

The first dinosaur discovery in Utah happened in 1859 (Coincidentally this was fifty years to the day before the discovery of the first bones found at the site later known as Dinosaur National Monument)

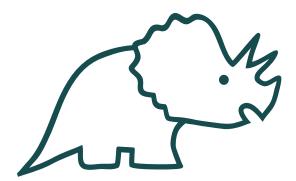
Many Dinosaurs have been found around Moab, including a small carnivorous dinosaur from the Triassic, a large Camarasaurus, and a gigantic Brontosaurus from the Jurassic, and Cretaceous Dinosaurs such as Utah Raptor and <u>Gastonia</u>.



Paleontologists have found a treasure trove of dinosaur remains in the rock formations of the Moab area. The record of dinosaurs and other ancient animals in the Moab area is best in the country.



Rock deposited during the Mesozoic Era is well exposed in the Moab area. That period spans approximately 252 million years to 66 million years ago. The Mesozoic Era has three divisions: Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. Dinosaurs appear in our area toward the end of the Triassic.



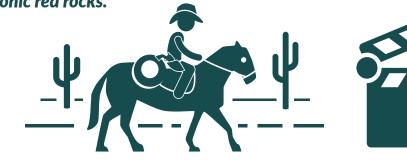
Southeastern Utah has a prolific fossil record of bones, and especially tracks, that have been exposed in the sedimentary record of Mesozoic age all around Moab <u>Dinosaurs</u>, including birds, are reptiles belonging to the Archosauria.

MOAB IN THE MOVIES

The Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission holds the title of the longest-running film commission in the world. Harkening back to the days of John Wayne and the classic western, the Moab area has been a popular destination for feature-length films, commercials, and television shows for almost 70 years. In 1949, John Ford first ventured out from the iconic Monument Valley to film along the majestic Colorado River Corridor. Seeing that the production employed almost all of Moab's 1.500 residents. local rancher George White founded the film commission to promote movie-making in the area and establish a local crew base and production services. Director Ridley Scott reported that he had "seen more wonderful and varied scenery in a single day in Moab than any other day [he had] scouted." Such variance has made Moab a hot spot for movies of all genres. From the ranches of the old west to the interplanetary fields of Mars, to mile after mile of classic road-trip roads, the scenery is as endless as the possibilities. Visitors to Moab may find the area familiar as they tip-toe up to Thelma and Louise Point, set off on horseback to follow John Wavne's hoof prints, or take in the view from Westworld's Hub Mesa. Filmmakers will find thousands of square miles of sand deserts, snowy mountains, desolate canyons, verdant farmland, empty roads, and rushing rivers, – not to mention the iconic red rocks.





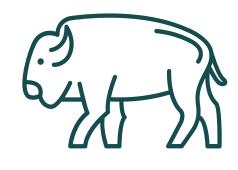


DESERT ANIMALS

Animals that are most active at dawn and dusk are called "<u>Crepuscular</u>" These times of day are cooler than mid-day. The half-dark makes prey animals less visible, yet visibility is good enough to locate food. Some animals include mule deer, elk, bears, coyotes, porcupines, desert cottontails, black-tailed jackrabbits, and many songbirds.

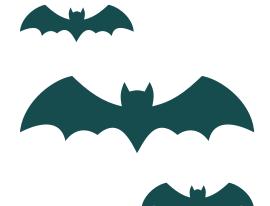
Nocturnal animals include kangaroo rats, woodrats (also called packrats), and most other snack desert rodents, skunks, ringtail cats, foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, bats, and owls.







A few <u>desert</u> animals are primarily active during the day or "Diurnal." These include rock squirrels, antelope squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, snakes, hawks, buffalo, and eagles.



HOW THE ARCHES ARE CREATED?

Underneath Arches National Park lies a salt bed layer, which was deposited some 300 million years ago when the area was part of an inland sea. When the sea evaporated, it left salt deposits; some areas collected over a thousand feet of these deposits. During the next millions of years, the area was filled with debris deposited from winds, floods, streams and oceans that came and went.

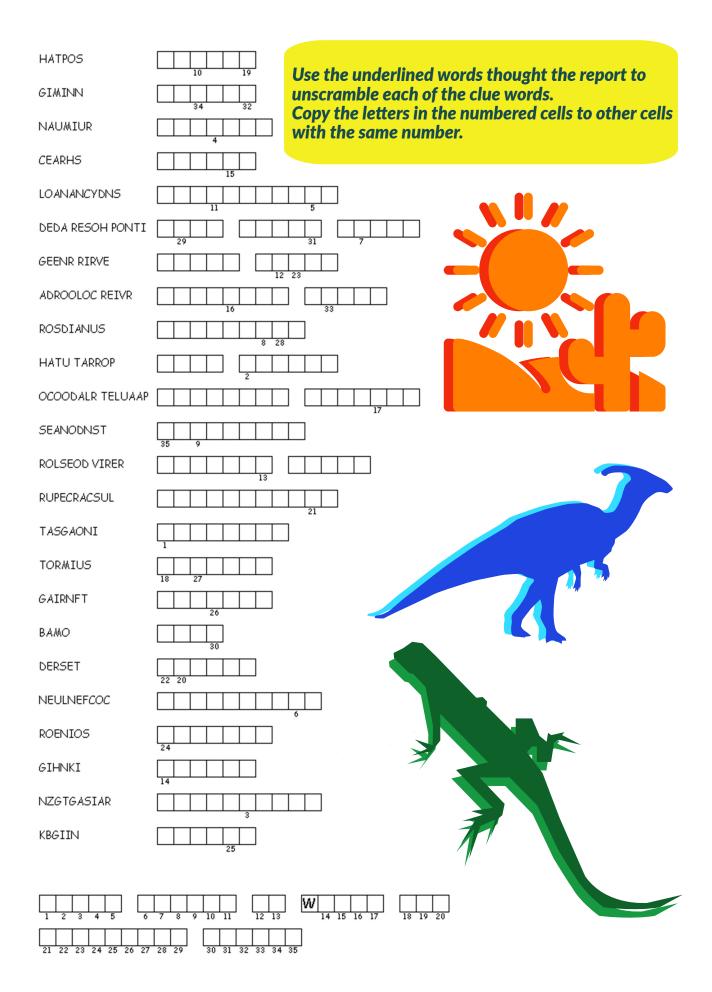
Over time this debris compressed into rock. The weight of the rock layer caused the salt bed below to become fluid, allowing it to thrust up and create domes and ridges.







What happened after the movement of salt molded the landscape? <u>Erosion</u> went to work on the surface rock layers and ground water began to dissolve the underlying salt deposits. Water seeped through cracks in the weathered rock and ice formed, further expanding the crevices and weakening the rock. Eventually, the domes began to collapse leaving a maze of vertical free-standing rock walls known as fins. Wind and water continued to assault these fins until they eventually wore through and pieces began to fall away, creating the amazing arches you see today.



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Arches Confluence Erosion Mining Plateau Tourism

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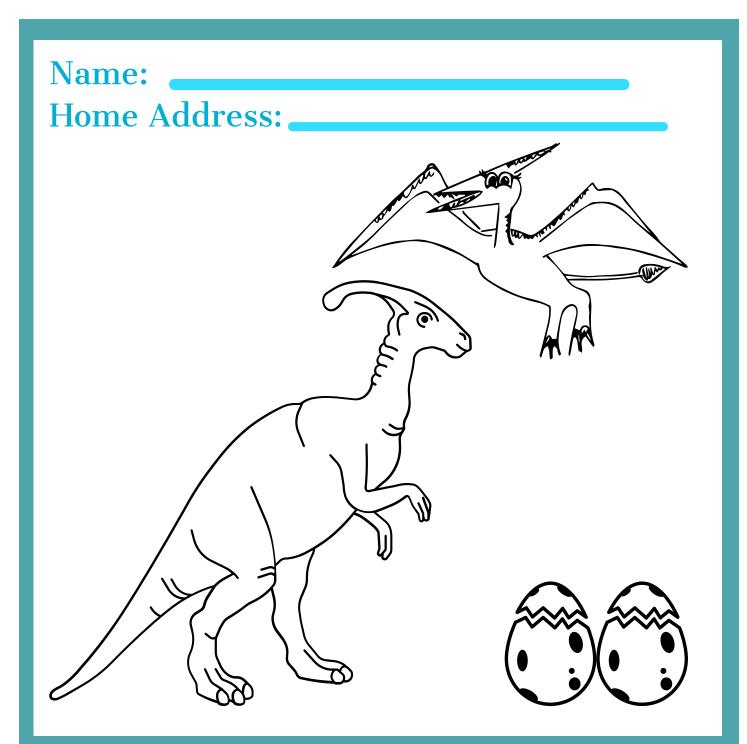
Gas

Moab

Biking Bookcliffs Desert Grand Rafting Potash Utah Uranium

Canyons Dinosaurs Hiking Oil **Rivers** Yucca

Cisco Elk La Sal **Pioneers** Sandstone Stargaze



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