It Happened at Washington Square

Objectives
Students will:

Explore the many uses of Washington Square through photos and written descriptions.
Create a news broadcast about an historic use of Washington Square.
Discuss the significance of Washington Square to Salt Lake City today.
Envision how the community will use Washington Square in the future.

Student Instruction
1. Ask students to think of a park or plaza they have visited. Have students list the different ways people use the space (i.e., concerts, walking and looking at trees, playing games, picnicking). Tell students that parks and plazas are “public spaces.”

2. Explain: Early leaders of Salt Lake City believed that public spaces were important for good communities. Public spaces are places where people can get together for celebrations, to have fun, or just to be with other people. City leaders selected four blocks to be public squares. Washington Square was one of them. Over time, the people of Salt Lake City have used Washington Square in many different ways.

Note: The blocks now containing West High School, Pioneer Park, Temple Square, and the City and County Building were originally designated as public squares.

Student Activity
1. Divide the class into six groups. Give each group one It Happened at Washington Square Photo and the corresponding Student Handout. Students examine photo and read the description on their handout.

2. Assign each group to create a news broadcast based on their photo and description. Students should pretend they are witnessing the event in their photo. Their newscast should describe: where the event is happening, what is happening, who is participating, and why the event is being held at Washington Square. Students may add details and create visual aids for their broadcast. Monitor groups to be sure they understand the assignment.
3. Students perform their broadcast for the class.

4. **Ask students:** Do you think Washington Square has a special meaning in Salt Lake City today? For example, would it have mattered in the 2002 Olympic announcement was made the Delta Center rather than Washington Square? Why or why not?

5. Ask students to envision how the citizens of Salt Lake City might use Washington Square as a community gathering place in the future. Class brainstorms ideas.

6. Students write a story or draw a picture depicting how the community will use Washington Square in the future.
SALT LAKE CITY,
Monday and Tuesday, July 2 and 3,
MONTGOMERY QUEEN’S
CALIFORNIA

MENAGERIE, CARAVAN

And Great Double Circus.

THE MOST COMPLETE AGGREGATION TRAVELLING!
DUAL EQUESTRIAN COMPANY.

GRAND CONSOLIDATION OF
Cooke’s Royal English Circus with Queen’s Popular California Circus

A DOUBLE TROUPE OF EQUESTRIANS, GYMNASTS,
VAULTERS, ATHLETES, ACROBATS, GLOWNS, ETC.
A Complete New Exhibition, Perfect in Every Detail.
Brilliantly Employed, and Larger Than Ever.

New Manager, New Circus, New Carrousel, New Wardrobes,
In fact, Everything New and Gorgeos.

MONSTER ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION!
Rare and Curious Animals from Every Portion of the Globe,
Tropical Birds, Chattering Apes and Monkeys.

Recently added, and to be seen for
Positively the First Time in this
Country, a Two-Horned

RHINOCEROS!
A Monster in Size.

AN AFRICAN HORNED HORSE!
These marvels of the Animal Kingdom are Alive and upon Exhibition Daily.

CIRCUS RIDING EXPOSED!
Every Afternoon. In the Evening the Grand, Spectacular, Military Drama,
on Horseback.

PUTNAM, THE IRON SON OF ’76.
GRAND ORIENTAL STREET PARADE!
The Most Brilliant and Impressing Procession ever witnessed upon the street.

ADMISSION: ONE DOLLAR. Children under 5 years, FIFTY CENTS.

Reserved Cushioned Opera Chairs, 50 Cents Extra.
Doors open at 1 and 7 p.m. Arena Performance commences one hour later.

Will also Exhibit at Wells, June 28; Driggs, June 30; Ogden, July 4;
Driggs, July 5; Green River, July 6; Rawlings, July 7.

Brilliant Fire Balloons and Fireworks on the Circus Lot at Ogden on the 4th.
Photo 6 It Happened at Washington Square

Photo courtesy of the Salt Lake City Arts Council.
It Happened at Washington Square

1 Washington Square was a campground. (1847-1869)
In the early days of Salt Lake City, people used Washington Square as a campground. New settlers arriving in Salt Lake City with their wagons needed a place to stay. They camped at Washington Square until they decided where to build a house. People who were just passing through Salt Lake City on their way to California also camped at the square. They could rest and buy new supplies before continuing their trip.
The arrival of a wagon train of new settlers was an exciting event in Salt Lake City. City residents gathered at Washington Square to greet the tired travelers. Bands played, children sang, flags waved, and everyone enjoyed a welcoming feast.

2 Washington Square was a baseball field. (1869-1891)
Before the City and County Building was begun in 1891, Washington Square was Salt Lake City's baseball field. Salt Lake City residents loved baseball. The city had 17 semi-professional baseball teams. Baseball practices or games were going on at Washington Square almost everyday from April to October.
Often crowds of 5,000 people—almost 1/4 of the city's population—came to watch the games. People had fun cheering for their favorite teams. A few people complained, though, that baseball led to "loud and improper behavior." They asked the city council to ban baseball at Washington Square. For three years, there were no games. Then the city council allowed them again.

3 Washington Square was a circus ground. (1869-1891)
When traveling circuses came to Salt Lake City, they set up their big tents in Washington Square. The circus started with a parade led by elephants. Large crowds lined the streets to see the clowns, animals, and daring performers. Schools even let out early so children could watch the parade.
One circus that came to Salt Lake City in 1880 was particularly exciting. The evening show at Washington Square was lit up by a wonderful new invention—electric lights. This was the first time electric lights were used in public in Utah.
4 **Concerts were held at Washington Square.** (1894-present)

Washington Square is a lovely place to listen to a concert. After the City and County Building was finished, musical groups often performed on the building’s west steps on Sunday afternoons. People came to Washington Square to sit on the benches or in the grass and enjoy the music.

Many different kinds of groups performed in Washington Square. Orchestras played symphonies, brass bands played marches, choruses sang songs. Once, a group of singers came all the way from Hawaii to perform at Washington Square.

5 **Washington Square is a place for celebrating.** (1995)

It was the biggest news in years. Salt Lake City had been chosen to host the 2002 Winter Olympics! When the official announcement was made, the City and County Building was lit up with tiny white lights. An explosion of fireworks went off above the building.

More than 50,000 people came to Washington Square to celebrate. Bands played, people danced, and confetti flew through the air. Even though it was summer, there was a short bobsled track and a ski simulator to help people get in the Olympic spirit. The celebration lasted for over two days.

6 **Washington Square is a place for sharing community spirit.** (1986-present)

Did you know that you can eat food from France, watch dances from Japan, listen to music from Peru, and see Native American pottery-makers at Washington Square? Each year the Living Traditions Festival brings together Salt Lake City residents from many different cultural backgrounds. People learn more about their neighbors by sharing their cultural traditions.

Washington Square is an exciting, crowded place during the three-day festival. There are over 20 booths where you can try food from different countries, stages where singers and dancers perform, and tents where craftsmen demonstrate their work.