Three Truths and a Lie 2

1. The Founding of the Mormons:
2. Joseph Smith founded them
3. They were founded in New York State
4. They were founded in the 1830s
5. Smith only had five followers to begin with
6. The religion’s origins:
7. The angel who appeared to Smith was called Moron
8. Smith dug up the golden plates on a hillside near Manchester
9. Smith translated the golden plates into the Book of Mormon
10. The Book of Mormon was so unpopular, people started shooting at Smith in the street
11. The first move:
12. The first stop for the Mormons was Kirtland
13. The Mormons were extremely successful in their first location
14. In the 1837 economic crisis, the Mormon bank collapsed
15. Everybody understood that this was just bad luck
16. The second move:
17. Smith and the Mormons fled to Mississippi
18. The Mormons were just as unpopular there and they weren’t allowed to vote
19. There were riots among the gentiles who burned down lots of property, both Mormon and non-Mormon
20. They left for Nauvoo in 1838
21. The third move:
22. The Mormons thought they could make Nauvoo into their perfect town, with no drinking or smoking
23. Some people wanted to go to the “Great American Desert” but Smith was too nervous to attempt it
24. By 1844 Nauvoo was the largest city in Illinois
25. It had its own army to defend it, of 14,000 men
26. The end of Nauvoo:
27. In 1844 Smith introduced polygamy after getting a vision from God
28. The local gentiles were very unhappy about this and started to protest
29. Other Mormons also denounced Smith and printed rude things about him
30. When Smith trashed the presses, he was arrested and shot in prison by a mob of 20 people
31. Looking West:
32. Brigham Young married 20 of Smith’s widows
33. Young wanted to move to somewhere nobody else wanted so he looked West
34. Young liked the look of the Great Salt Lake because it was in Mexico and they could practice polygamy there
35. Young planned the journey very carefully to ensure it was successful, but they had to leave earlier than expect because of persecution
36. The Journey
37. The first way station was called the Camp of Israel
38. The Mormons had to leave before they were properly ready because their homes were being looted
39. Smith reached the Missouri River in June 1846 and built the Winter Quarters there
40. The first pioneer band of 143 men, 3 women and 2 children finally reach the Salt Lake Valley in April 1847
41. Setting up the town:
42. Young decided there would be no private ownership of the land or the water and the Church assigned everybody land according to their needs
43. The centre of Salt Lake City was Young’s house
44. Everybody had a set time of day when they were allowed to access the irrigation ditches so there was always enough water for everyone
45. They built their houses out of sun dried mud bricks
46. Settling the state:
47. In 1848 the United States won the region from Mexico in a game of cards
48. Young wanted to make a Mormon state called Deseret
49. The American government created the Territory of Utah instead and made Young first governor
50. By 1860 the Mormons had settled the whole of Utah and were incredibly successful
51. Perpetual Emigrating Fund:
52. To encourage more people to move to Utah, Mormons missionaries went all over the world – Europe, the Far East and South America
53. The Perpetual Emigrating Fund was set up to pay for the work of the missionaries abroad
54. Over 30,000 converts were ready to leave England by the end of 1851
55. In 1855 4225 converts arrived in Utah from abroad
56. The Mormon War
57. Even though they were a US territory, there was still a lot of tension between the Mormons and the rest of the USA
58. Part of the reason for this was because the Mormons got on so well with the Indians. Young also flouted lots of US laws
59. The US Government sent 2500 troops to teach the Mormons a lesson in June, 1857
60. The Mormons successfully repelled them and the troops ended up stranded in the Sierra Nevadas, where they resorted to cannibalism to survive the winter
61. Mountain Meadow Massacre:
62. A big wagon train of 1400 homesteaders passed across Mormon land and were abusive and rude to the Mormons and the Indians
63. The Indians killed seven of the settlers
64. The Mormons decided all the other settlers should be killed so that nobody could tell anyone about it
65. All the settlers were killed by Mormons and Indians
66. Aftermath:
67. The Mormons tried to tell everyone it had happened in self-defence. When nobody believed them, they said the Indians had bet them £20 to do it.
68. The Americans sent more troops
69. The Mormons tried to flee and when the press found out they made them into martyrs
70. The US government made peace with them and appointed a gentile governor
71. Utah becomes a state:
72. The US government passed a law in 1862 outlawing polygamy but the Mormons ignored it
73. Utah had applied to be a state seven times by 1890, but had been turned down every time
74. Helpfully, someone then had a vision from God saying that they should cut the whole polygamy thing out
75. They dropped polygamy and became a full US state in 1896