



Primary Source #1

Excerpt from John Wesley Powell's Expedition Journal, 1869. Written three months into the expedition as they prepared to enter the "foot" of the Grand Canyon.

August 13, 1869 —

We are now ready to start on our way down the Great Unknown...

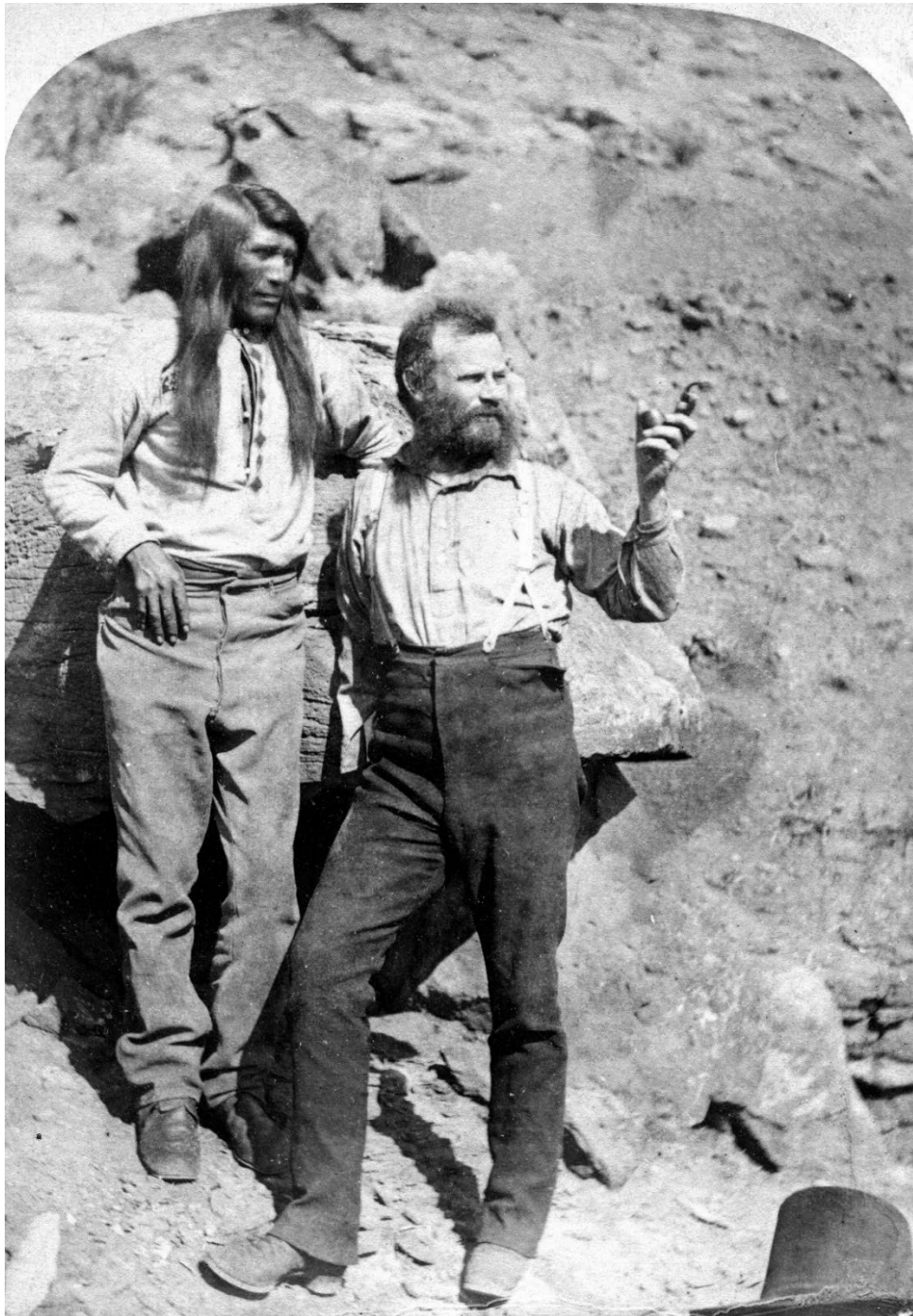
We have an unknown distance yet to run; an unknown river yet to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset* the channel, we know not; what walls rise over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture* many things. The men talk as cheerfully as ever...

With some eagerness, and some anxiety, and some misgiving, we enter the canyon below...

beset: are set in
conjecture: guess



Primary Source #2



Tau-gu, chief of the Paiutes, looking at a river with John Wesley Powell, 1873. (Grand Canyon National Park)



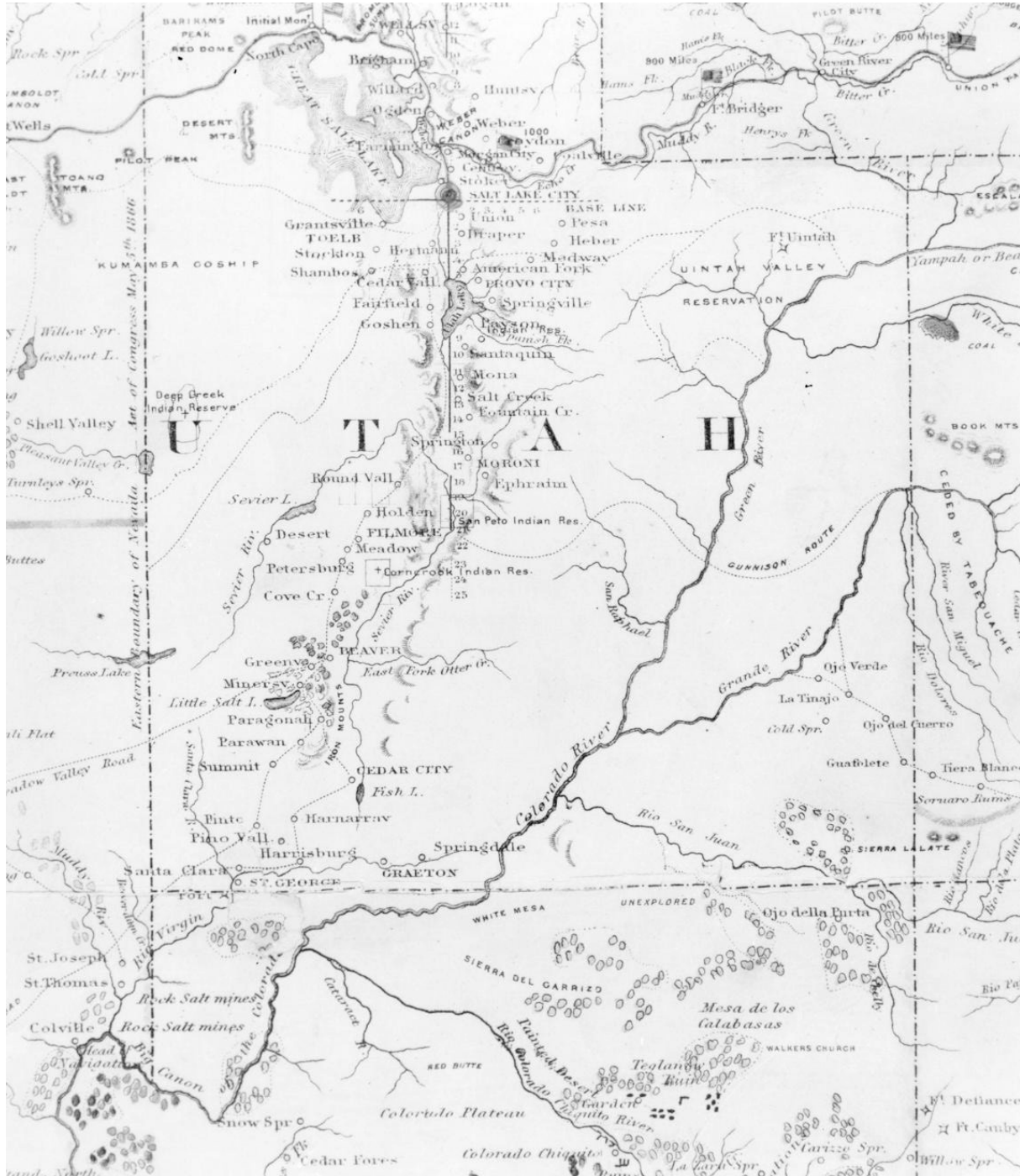
Primary Source #3



*John Wesley Powell and his crew departing from Green River, Wyoming, 1871.
(National Archives and Records Administration)*



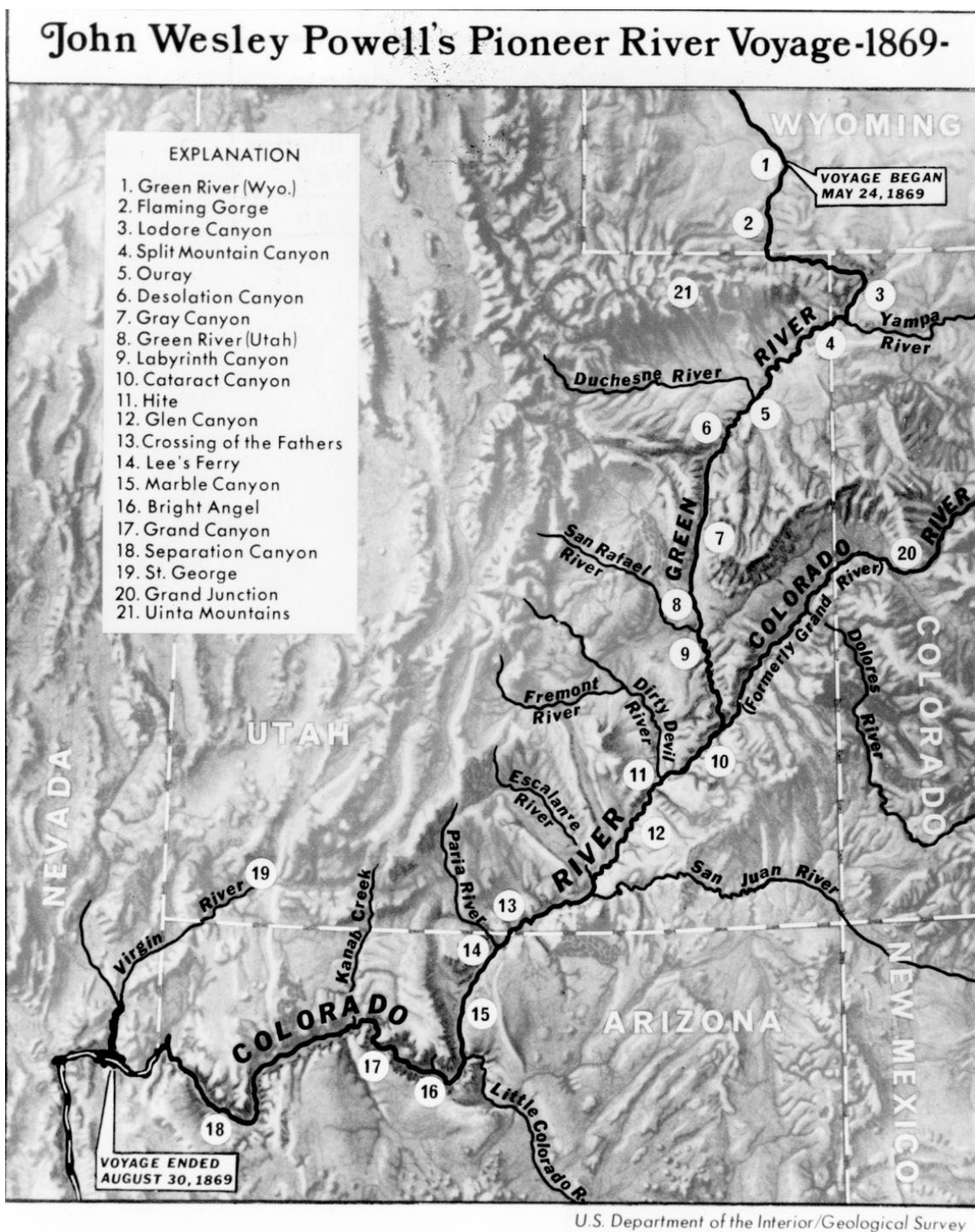
Primary Source #4



Map of Utah used by John Wesley Powell on his exploration of the Colorado River, 1869. (United States Geological Survey)



Primary Source #5



Map of John Wesley Powell's 1869 Colorado River Exploration, 1896. (United States Geological Survey)

Name:



Primary Source #1

When was this journal entry written?

What do you think the “Great Unknown” is?

What’s the author’s purpose?

- Is he giving a factual description of the things he is seeing?
- Is he telling you what he’s feeling?
- What does he want you to understand?

How do you think Powell feels about the expedition?

What did you learn about Powell and his expedition from this journal entry?

Name:



Primary Source #2

What do you see in the picture?

What questions do you have after looking at the picture?

What can you learn about Powell's expeditions from this photograph?

Primary Source #3

What do you see in the picture?

What questions do you have after looking at the picture?

What can you learn about Powell's expeditions from this photograph?

Name:



Primary Sources #4 and #5

What are some similarities between the maps?

What are some differences between the maps?

How do the maps help us better understand Powell's expeditions?

What questions do you have about the maps?