MARYLAND

THE OLD LINE STATE *Became a state April 28, 1788 (7th)*

Maryland wraps around the Chesapeake Bay, with sandy ocean beaches on one side and mountains on the other. It is a small state where some big moments in American history took place.



A Colony Named for a Queen

In March 1634, about 140 English colonists arrived on two ships, the Ark and the Dove. The Yaocomaco people agreed to sell them a village, and it became St. Mary's City. The colony's founders, the Calvert family, were Catholics who had been treated badly in England. They named Maryland for Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of King Charles I.



The Flag Was Still There

In September 1814, during the War of 1812, British ships fired on Fort McHenry for about 25 hours. The fort guarded Baltimore's harbor. A lawyer named Francis Scott Key watched from a ship. In the morning he saw the American flag still flying and wrote a poem about it. That poem became "The Star-Spangled Banner", the national anthem.



Wooden Ducks That Fool Real Ones

Each fall, flocks of ducks and geese fly south to the shallow top of the Chesapeake Bay. In the 1800s, hunters crowded into Havre de Grace. Local carvers made wooden ducks called decoys to float on the water and draw real birds close. Today the painted decoys are prized as art. The town calls itself the Decoy Capital of the World and has a museum full of them.



Where Rivers Meet the Ocean

The Chesapeake Bay is an estuary, a place where fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean. More than 150 rivers and streams flow into it. The bay is about 200 miles long but only about 21 feet deep on average. Its shallow, slightly salty water is a good home for oysters, fish and blue crabs.



Sailing for Oysters

A skipjack is a wooden sailboat built to drag a dredge, a kind of metal basket, across oyster beds. Skipjacks first appeared on the Chesapeake Bay in the 1890s. To protect the oysters, Maryland law long allowed dredging only from boats under sail. That rule kept skipjacks working long after other fishing boats switched to engines.



The Wild Horses of Assateague

Wild horses live on Assateague, a long, sandy island on the Atlantic coast. The story goes that they swam ashore from a shipwreck, but no records prove it. More likely, farmers in the late 1600s moved their horses to the island so they would not have to build fences or pay taxes on them.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 6.3 million (19th most)
Size	About 12,400 square miles (42nd largest)
Highest point	Hoye-Crest on Backbone Mountain, 3,360 feet
Counties	23, plus the city of Baltimore
Neighbors	Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The nickname Old Line State honors the Maryland Line, soldiers known for their courage in the Revolutionary War.
- Maryland has no natural lakes. Every lake in the state, including Deep Creek Lake, was made by people.
- Jousting became the state sport in 1962. Riders gallop on horseback and try to spear small hanging rings with a lance.
- The Wye Oak was more than 460 years old when a thunderstorm knocked it down in 2002.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is the capital?
2. Which city is closest to Deep Creek Lake?
3. What are skipjacks used to harvest?

Answers: 1. Annapolis 2. Cumberland 3. Oysters