

MARYLAND

HISTORY

Native nations, English colonists and many later newcomers built Maryland around the Chesapeake Bay.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Maryland for more than 10,000 years. By 1600, the Piscataway lived along the Potomac River and the Nanticoke lived on the Eastern Shore. The Susquehannock lived to the north, along the Susquehanna River. They grew corn, beans and squash. They fished and gathered oysters. Captain John Smith of Virginia explored the bay in 1608.



A Colony on the Bay

In 1634, English settlers started the **colony** of Maryland at St. Mary's City. Its owner was Lord Baltimore. Settlers grew tobacco to sell in England. At first, most field workers were servants who worked several years to pay for their trip. Later, most were enslaved Africans. In 1649, the colony passed a law that let Christians of different churches worship freely. Annapolis became the capital in 1694. Baltimore was founded in 1729.

Wars and Treaties

The Susquehannock raided Piscataway towns and some English settlements in the 1640s. In a **treaty** in 1652, they gave Maryland land on both sides of the bay. In 1675, **militia** from Maryland and Virginia surrounded a Susquehannock fort near the Potomac. They killed five chiefs who came out to talk. Susquehannock warriors then raided settlers' farms. Around 1700, many Piscataway moved north to Pennsylvania. Many Nanticoke followed in the 1740s.

Other families stayed, and Native people live in Maryland today.

A New State

Annapolis served as the nation's capital for part of 1783 and 1784. Maryland became the 7th state on April 28, 1788. A few years later it gave land for a new capital city, Washington, D.C. In 1814, soldiers at Fort McHenry kept British ships out of Baltimore.

Roads, Rails and Canals

Marylanders built ways to reach the West. The National Road started at Cumberland in 1811. In 1828, workers in Baltimore began the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, one of the country's first railroads. That same year, digging began on a **canal** beside the Potomac. It reached Cumberland in 1850. Baltimore grew into a busy port.



The Civil War and After

Maryland allowed slavery but stayed in the Union during the Civil War. Marylanders fought on both sides. Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were both born into slavery on the Eastern Shore and escaped to the North. On September 17, 1862, Union and Confederate armies fought at Antietam Creek. About 23,000 men were killed, wounded or missing in one day. The Confederate army went back to Virginia. Maryland ended slavery in 1864. Later, workers built steel mills, ships and, in 1952, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

MARYLAND THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Harriet Tubman	Born in Dorchester County. Led others to freedom.
Frederick Douglass	Born in Talbot County. Famous speaker and writer.
Benjamin Banneker	Born near Baltimore. Wrote almanacs.
Thurgood Marshall	Born in Baltimore. Supreme Court justice.
Babe Ruth	Born in Baltimore. Baseball home run hitter.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	a settlement ruled by a faraway country
treaty	a written agreement between nations
militia	local men called up to serve as soldiers
canal	a waterway dug by people for boats