

RS#02.1

Teacher Guide to the Resources

Document A: 1856 Map of Maryland and Delaware

Background Information:

- This map, part of the *General Atlas of the World*, was published in 1856.
- By 1856, 31 states were admitted to the Union. Delaware was the first to be admitted; in 1788 Maryland became the seventh state added to the Union.
- Howard County, once part of Anne Arundel County, became an independent jurisdiction in 1851.
- Maryland is south of the Mason Dixon Line. Although the Mason Dixon line is most commonly associated with the division between the northern and southern (free and slave, respectively) states during the 1800s and the American Civil War era, the line was delineated in the mid-1700s to settle a property dispute between the Calvert and Penn families. The two surveyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, followed a 1750 British court ruling and placed the most northern part of Maryland 15 miles south of Philadelphia (based on latitude).
- Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, Congressman James Madison, and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson arranged a supposed bargain in June 1790. In return for Hamilton's agreement to provide the congressional votes necessary to locate the national capital along the Potomac River, Jefferson and Madison promised to round up sufficient support to assure enactment of Hamilton's plan for assumption of the Revolutionary War debts of the states by the federal government. In order to secure sufficient votes, a further concession by Hamilton involving direct payments to those states with little or no debt proved necessary.
- The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, is a major factor in Maryland's economy. It is also a key transportation route along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The construction of the C&O Canal was started in 1828. Its primary purpose was to connect tidewater on the Potomac River in DC with the headwaters of the Ohio River in western Pennsylvania, thereby providing an economic trade route between the eastern seaboard and the trans-Allegheny West. Canal use was ended in 1928 as a result of damaging floods and the fact that most trade was now being carried by the railroad. The B&O Railroad is one of the oldest railroads (construction began in 1828) in the United States and the first common carrier railroad. It was built to fulfill Baltimore City's need to compete with the newly constructed Erie Canal (which served New York City) and another canal being proposed by Pennsylvania, which would have connected Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Guided Questions/Teaching Suggestions:

Ask students:

- When were the maps published?
- Maryland is south of which political border?
- Where is Maryland located in relation to the District of Columbia?
- How is the relative location of the District of Columbia important to Maryland?
- Which body of water has a great influence on Maryland? Why?
- What forms of transportation will play a role in Maryland's economy? Provide evidence to support your answer.

Educational materials were developed through the Making Master Teachers in Howard County Program, a partnership between Howard County Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

- Based on this document, is Maryland more Northern, more Southern, or represents the middle ground?

This document could be analyzed by using visual discovery. Use the guided questions as the basis for the class discussion. Remember, questions should be spiraled from the basic level (title, date, location of the state, etc.) to the analytical and critical levels of thinking (importance of location, approximate location to D.C., influence of the Chesapeake Bay, impact of transportation modes, etc.).

This document could also be analyzed using the *Map Analysis Resource Sheet* located in the Appendix of this lesson.