KIDS TRACK

LINES OF SIGHT

SIGNS AND SIGNALS OF THE RAILROAD
Dear Guests:

Welcome to our *Lines of Sight* exhibit! *Lines of Sight* features railroad signs from around the United States and the world, along with signals from the original B&O Railroad lines.

The majority of the antique railroad signs displayed were frequently used as promotional signs by the railroads, often featured in depots and stations, advertising the railroad itself, specific routes, or marketing slogans. These signs were iconic for their day, and often considered pieces of 'art'; many railroads had departments dedicated solely to designing signs.

We located this wonderful array of railroad signs in our warehouse; we believe a B&O Railroad employee may have been a collector of these signs, amassing this amazing collection from around the world.

We hope you enjoy the signs as much as we do, read the information on the various signal combinations, and try your own hand at mimicking railroad flag signals!

*Lines of Sight* is an exhibit intended for all audiences — rail fans, artists, and the general public. We welcome your feedback on both the exhibit content and your overall experience.

Thank you for your support, enjoy!

Kris A. Hoellen
Executive Director
B&O Railroad Museum
B&O RAILROAD

The B&O Railroad was the first commercial railroad in the United States. It was built to connect the eastern part of the United States with new trade routes in the Midwest through common waterways such as the Ohio River and the Erie Canal.

ACTIVITY

Pretend you have family in Chicago, Illinois. On the map, mark the route you would take to get to your family, starting from Baltimore, Maryland.

List three cities you would have to go through to get there.

1. 

2. 

3. 

What states would you have to go through?

____________________

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Logos and signs can be used by railroads to tell a story or message about their product without using words. When the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railway first added air conditioning to its sleeper cars in the 1930s, the company created an advertisement using the slogan “Sleep like a Kitten” which also included artwork of a sleeping kitten. People liked the picture of the sleeping kitten so much that the C&O Railway began to include it on their signs and in many more of their advertisements!

**CHESSIE SYSTEM**

**ACTIVITY**

In 1972, the C&O Railway merged with the B&O Railroad and Western Maryland Railway and was renamed as Chessie System. If you look closely, you can still see the outline of the sleeping kitten in the Chessie System logo.

**Connect the dots to make your own sleepy kitten logo.**
In 1987, the B&O Railroad parent company C&O Railway merged with CSX Transportation. If you’ve noticed any of the trains around Baltimore, you’ve probably seen the CSX logo.

**DID YOU KNOW**

that CSX operates something called the “Juice Train?” They carry cars of fresh orange juice between Florida and New Jersey for Tropicana. Our local railroad is squeezing into your daily breakfast!

**ACTIVITY**  Color the “Juice Train” above.
The Union Pacific Railroad was founded in 1862. Its original route, from Nebraska to California, was built following the path of the historic Pony Express. Designers thought that if a horse could travel that route in the winter, a train would be able to pass through, too!

For more information about the Pony Express and how it was used to transport mail, check out our mail car.
INTERNATIONAL RAILROADS

IN TAIWAN, kids used to have to travel to schools that were far away from their home. Most children traveled by train to school every day. Taiwan Railway built routes that connected all of the major cities around the island.

IN NEW ZEALAND, trains help to connect different parts of the country, just as they do in Taiwan. Some of their main freight includes lumber for building as well as milk and dairy products.

ACTIVITY

Taiwan and New Zealand are both islands in the Pacific Ocean that use trains. Imagine if their trains needed to travel off the island. What tools could you use to help the train travel by sea?
ACTIVITY

Design your own railroad logos!

• Where does your train go?

• What cargo would your railroad carry?
**RAILROAD SIGNALS KEY**

Safety is very important to railroading. Trains have safety signals just like cars on the road. How many of these signs have you seen while riding around in your car? Circle the ones you see as you leave the B&O today.

- **CROSSBUCK**
  Marks the crossing and should be considered the same as a Yield.

- **ADVANCED WARNING**
  Warns drivers that the road crosses railroad tracks ahead.

- **NO TRAIN HORN**
  A Quiet Zone has been established and normally the train will not sound.

- **EMERGENCY Notification**
  Shows the railroad’s emergency phone number and USDOT Crossing Number.

- **MULTIPLE TRACKS**
  Indicates the number of tracks present.

- **PAVEMENT MARKINGS & STOP BARS**
  On paved roads, alert drivers that the road crosses railroad tracks ahead and identifies the safe place to stop and look for an approaching train.

- **SIDE STREET ADVANCED WARNING**
  Warns that a highway-rail intersection will appear immediately after making either a right or left turn.

- **FLASHING RED LIGHTS**
  Warns of an approaching train.

- **FLASHING RED LIGHTS & GATES**
  Warns of an approaching train and used to close the road.

- **CANTILEVER FLASHING LIGHTS**
  Warns of an approaching train.

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**FLAG SIGNALS KEY**

- **REDUCE SPEED**
- **STOP**
- **BACK**
- **APPLY AIR BRAKES**
- **RELEASE AIR BRAKES**
- **PROCEED**
**ACTIVITY**

Draw a line to match each flag signal with its command.

- **PROCEED**
- **RELEASE AIR BRAKES**
- **BACK**
- **REDUCE SPEED**
- **APPLY AIR BRAKES**
- **STOP**

**ACTIVITY**

Draw a line to match each railroad signal below with the hazard it signifies.

- **3 TRACKS**
- **RR** (Crossing Sign)
- **NO TRAIN HORN**
- **Crossing Arms Down**

**CROSSING AHEAD!**
There is a railroad crossing coming up.

**SHHH!**
Train horns are not allowed to make sound in this area.

**MULTIPLE TRACKS!**
You’ve entered an area with 3 tracks present.

**TRAIN APPROACHING!**
A train is approaching on the track ahead.