



Maryland History on the B&O Railroad

Post-Visit Lesson

Grades: 3rd grade- High School

Class Time Needed: 45 minutes

Big Idea Students will understand how the B&O Railroad connected Maryland to the world.

Maryland Curriculum Standards

Social Studies Framework

- Essential Question (3rd grade): Why do industries differ across the state of Maryland?
- Essential Question (4th grade): How does where you live impact how you live?
- Essential Question (5th grade): How did conflicts over slavery result in the Civil War?
- Essential Question (8th grade): How does a nation reconcile past injustices?
- Essential Question (High School): To what extent did post-war economic growth distribute benefits equitably?

Materials Needed

Each student group needs:

- Poater board (or device to create digital presentation)
- Coloring utensils
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Instructor needs:

- Dry erase or chalk board (or digital platform)



Teacher Resources

- B&O Railroad Museum Virtual Exhibit

<https://www.boliveson.org/>

- Link to Read Aloud video of "Samuel Morse, That's Who!" picture book

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-nN_QaoxnU

Lesson Procedure:

Introduction:

Draw a large circle in the middle of the board and write "B&O Railroad" inside. Ask the students to say words or phrases related to the B&O Railroad that they remember from their visit. As answers are given, draw lines extending from the large circle and write the students' answers in smaller circles surrounding the center.

Examples of related words/phrases: Baltimore, 1827, Ohio River, Birthplace of American Railroading, morse code, telegram/telegraph, Johns Hopkins, Mount Clare Station, Underground Railroad, Henry Box Brown, port of Baltimore, farming, coal mining, American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, Union, slavery, segregation.

The goal is for students to remember information from their Museum visit and establish the connection between events in U.S. History and the B&O Railroad.

Direct Instruction (Student Activity):

Divide students into 5 groups. Each group will be assigned one of the following topics: Trade, Communication, Travel, Civil Rights and Industry.

Once the groups are assigned their topic, they will need to create a visual explaining three ways their topic is connected to the B&O Railroad. Examples of visuals include: poster, slideshow, video, booklet, flyer, etc.

If students are struggling to make connections, below are some examples of how the topics connect to the B&O Railroad:

- Trade - The B&O Railroad allowed Baltimore to trade with cities along the Ohio River. Freight from trains would unload at the Port of Baltimore and go to Europe and the Caribbean.
- Communication - Samuel Morse sent the first telegram to Mount Clare Station. Telegraph lines were built along railroad tracks.
- Travel - People could travel to other cities quickly because of the railroad. Segregation occurred on railroads and made travelling difficult for African Americans. Freedom seekers used the railroad to travel North.
- Civil Rights - The United States Military Railroad hired African Americans with railroad knowledge to help the Union Army during the Civil War. During Reconstruction, many African Americans refused to sit in segregated rail cars and were able to end segregation in Maryland.
- Industry - Maryland has many farms that grew crops transported on the B&O Railroad. Coal and steel were mined and produced in Maryland for the railroads.



Lesson Procedure Continued:

Conclusion:

Groups will give a short (2-3 minute) description of their topic and the connections to the B&O Railroad.

Lead the students in a discussion with the following guiding questions -

- What topic do you think is the most important?
- Do any of these topics affect your life today?
- What is something you did not know about the railroad before the field trip?

