Maryland History on the B&O Railroad
Pre-Visit Lesson

Grades: 3rd-5th grade
Class Time Needed: 45 minutes

Big Idea
Students will understand Maryland geography.

Maryland Curriculum Standards

Social Studies Framework
- Essential Question (4th grade): How does where you live impact how you live?

Materials Needed
- Internet access
- Stapler
- 3 pieces of plain paper (for each student)
- Writing/coloring utensils (for each student)
- Glue sticks or Tape (for each student)
- Scissors (for each student)

Teacher Resources
- How to make a flip book video - https://youtu.be/kUgnUh3kF0A
Lesson Procedure:

Introduction:

Students will work together as a class to complete the World Geography Games: Continents (https://world-geography-games.com/en/world_continents.html) activity. This will provide the class with a review/understanding of the geography of Earth. Make sure the students understand where they live is North America and have them locate their continent and country on a map.

After identifying the continents, challenge the students with the World Geography Games: United States (https://world-geography-games.com/us_states/index.html) activity to see if they can work together to name all 50 states correctly. The goal is to make sure they can identify Maryland as a state within the country of the United States of America which is a country within the continent of North America.
Lesson Procedure Continued:

Direct Instruction (Student Activity):

Students will make a flipbook out of 3 sheets of plain computer paper (see next page for instructions). After the flipbook is constructed, label the flaps (from top to bottom): “My Geography Flipbook”, “City”, “State”, “Country”, “Continent”, and “World”. Students can draw or cut and paste the images on the inside to complete the flaps. All images should be labelled and include a one sentence explanation (examples found in Teacher Resources section).

Conclusion:

Prompt students to discuss their position in the world with the following questions:

- Why is it important to know about the state we live in?
- How is the state of Maryland different from other states?
- How does the geography of Maryland make it special? (Example answers: access to the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay, close to Washington D.C., several mountain ranges, cities and rural areas)
Geography Flipbook Assembly Instructions

Step 1: Gather 3 pieces of 8.5 in x 11 in plain computer paper.

Step 2: Place one piece of paper on the table. Place the second piece of paper on top of the first piece leaving one inch of space at the top. Place the third piece of paper on top of the second piece leaving another inch of space between the edge of the second piece of paper and the edge of the third piece of paper.

Step 3: Fold the paper stack over the middle so that six flaps are formed.

Step 4: Staple the creased edge of the paper stack on the left and right to secure the flaps.