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Founded in 1729, Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland. It is an "independent city," meaning that it is not part of a county. The city sits beside the Chesapeake Bay and is home to Harborplace, The National Aquarium, Johns Hopkins University, and the Baltimore Orioles. It boasts an internationally renowned orchestra, a regional opera, and a premier theatre company.

Day or night, the Baltimore Inner Harbor is a beautiful place to see.



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The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and is nearly 200 miles long. It is surrounded by the states of Maryland and Virginia. Chesapeake Bay played an important role in the settlement of this country. Explorers first reached the bay in the 1500s, sailed up the river, and in 1607, Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America. The bay is a popular destination for tourists who enjoy fishing, crabbing, swimming, boating, and sailing.



The Atlantic Blue Crab is a member of the brachyuran order of crustaceans. Males have blue claws, and the claw tips of the female blue crabs look like they are painted red. Like fish, crabs use their gills to extract oxygen from the water, but crabs can actually survive for long periods of time out of the water if their gills are moist. Their common habitat is muddy shores, bays and estuaries, making the blue crab a well-known symbol of the Chesapeake Bay area.

