

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Past, Present, and Future*ACTIVITY 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY—THEN AND NOW**Part One:*

1. Why did John Smith and his crew travel from England to the Chesapeake Bay? What was their mission? *(To explore the region, to search for a northwest passage to Asia, to convert the native people, to find resources.)*
2. What did they find? *(Rich natural resources, indigenous people.)*
3. What did they accomplish? *(Extensive mapping and documentation of early seventeenth-century bay, including physical features, natural resources, and people.)*
4. Why do groups like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation feel John Smith's exploration is still important today? *(It highlights the historic role of the bay in the birth of the United States.)*

Part Two:

1. How did the early settlers of Jamestown select its location? What were the good and bad things about that location? *(The area was easy to reach by boat, had deep enough water to make loading and unloading supplies easy, and was uninhabited by natives, so it seemed safe. Unfortunately, it was marshy, providing home to disease-bearing mosquitoes, and the water became brackish in the summer, increasing the likelihood of disease.)*
2. During the years Smith spent exploring the area, what was the land like? How did Native Americans interact with their environment? How did the English settlers? *(The Native Americans Smith encountered were skilled laborers and hunters. They supported themselves well through the natural environment. The English settlers made poor choices and did not work hard until Smith forced them to.)*
3. How did the city of Baltimore both benefit from and affect the Chesapeake Bay? *(Baltimore's location on the Patapsco River made it a center for industry and shipping until sites down river, closer to the bay and not as polluted as the city's harbor had become, threatened to choke it out. It was revived via an urban renewal project to create the "Inner Harbor," an area largely enjoyed by tourists today.)*
4. How did advances in technology affect the Chesapeake Bay's history? How does modern technology affect the area today? *(Examples may include transportation advances that, while making travel easier in the area, actually led to the isolation of tidewater communities.)*