Breaking Barriers in History

Take inspiration for your 2020 History Day project from the Chesapeake Bay! Many of these topics can be researched at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Colonial and Revolutionary Era
• William Claiborne, the Calverts, and the dispute over Kent Island
• Maryland Toleration Act (1649)
• Peggy Stewart and the Annapolis Tea Party
• The tobacco industry in the Chesapeake
• Battle of the Severn

Early National and Antebellum Era
• Compromise of 1790
• Chesapeake-Leopard affair and the Embargo of 1807
• Emancipation of Maryland and Virginia slaves by the British during the War of 1812
• William Pinkney (politician, lawyer and diplomat)
• Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Daniel Coker, and the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (1816)
• Mason-Dixon Line
• Charles Ball and Fifty Years in Chains; or, The Life of an American Slave (1836)
• Frederick Douglass and the abolitionist movement
• Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Civil War and Reconstruction
• Joint Resolution 80 (1861), an attempt to prevent the Civil War
• The Oyster Wars, Maryland Oyster Navy, and enforcement against illegal dredging
• The Stewart sisters and The Sue (1885)
• Josephine Carr and the steamboat Chester

Gilded Age to World War II
• The Maryland Workmen’s Compensation Act (1902), Franklin v. The United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore (1904), and the evolution of workers’ compensation laws
• Gustav Brunn and the history of Old Bay
• Myers v. Anderson (1915)
• William Preston Lane, Jr. and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge
• Rachel Carson and the environmental movement
• Crab pickers, packinghouse workers and the strikes of the 1930s
• Ruth Starr Rose, advocating for racial respect through art

Civil Rights Movement/Vietnam War to the Present
• Gloria Richardson, the Cambridge Movement, and riots of 1963 and 1967
• Morgan v. Virginia (1946)
• The Clean Water Act (1972)
• Helen Delich Bentley and the Port of Baltimore
• Barbara Mikulski and Historic Preservation in Fells Point and Federal Hill
• Chesapeake Bay Commission (1980)
• Waterwomen and women’s roles in harvesting the Bay’s seafood

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