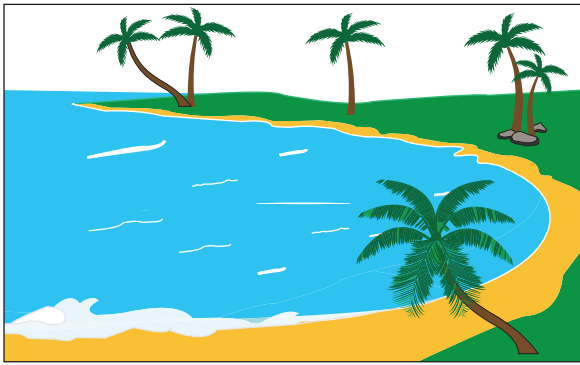


Chesapeake Bay



Chesapeake Bay is a waterway on the east coast of America. It is an inlet for the Atlantic Ocean, and its waters flow through six states. It is the largest inlet for the Atlantic in the United States.

This bay is called an estuary. This means a place where the ocean meets streams or rivers. The ocean water flows into the Chesapeake Bay. It flows into rivers in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia. It also flows through Washington DC.

Native American Indians lived in the bay area for hundreds of years. Explorers from Europe came in the sixteenth century. When the Pilgrims came to America in 1607, they settled near the bay in Jamestown. Over the next year, John Smith explored and mapped the bay. It quickly became a big part of the area's defense and commerce. It was used for trading and shipping for hundreds of years, and it was invaded by the British in the War of 1812.

The bay is smaller in some areas than in others. It ranges from just over three feet wide to as wide as thirty-five miles. It ranges from twenty-one feet deep to nearly two hundred feet deep!

Many types of fish and shellfish make their home in the bay. There are also thousands of types of plant life in the water around the bay. Some people think the name of the bay comes from an old word meaning "big shellfish bay." Fishing

Chesapeake Bay

has been a big part of the bay's history.

Chesapeake Bay is America's biggest estuary. It is the third largest in the world. It is around 200 miles long. It covers around sixty-four thousand square miles.

Today, bridges have been built to let people cross the bay. There is also a tunnel that goes under it, which was built in 1964. Canals have been built to connect the many waterways.

The bay area is called the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It is made up of the bay as well as nearby cliffs, beaches, and forests. The watershed is important to nature in the area. For instance, the forests and cliffs help clean the water as it flows through them. It also provides jobs for many people who live there. This is done through conservation work as well as tourism and local business.

Today, around eighteen million people live in the bay area. Lots of visitors come each year to see the many historical sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The bay is a big part of American history.

Chesapeake Bay

- 1) What is the passage about?
 - a) It's about how many people the Chesapeake Bay provides livelihood to.
 - b) It's about the historical, geographical, natural, and touristic importance of Chesapeake Bay.
 - c) It's about how many types of fish and shellfish live in the Chesapeake Bay.

- 2) Which statements are true about Chesapeake Bay?
 - a) The Chesapeake Bay flows through seven states.
 - b) The bay is bigger in some areas than in others.
 - c) Plant life abounds in the water around the bay.

- 3) What type of text is this?
 - a) Informative
 - b) Persuasive
 - c) Entertaining

- 4) Fill in the blanks with not more than one word.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed consists of cliffs, beaches, and forests. The forests and _____ help clean the water. A lot of _____ visit the area, so through _____ and other relevant local businesses, the watershed _____ many people.

Chesapeake Bay

- 5) It ranges from twenty-one feet deep to nearly two hundred feet deep. Why does the author include this detail?
