

List of Maryland state symbols





This is a **list of symbols of the U.S. state of Maryland**. Most of the items in the list are officially recognized symbols created by an act of the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by the governor. However, two of the more famous symbols of Maryland, the state motto and the state nicknames, were never made official by




Location of the state of Maryland in the United States of America






the state government. While the state seal derives from the colonial heritage of the state, the majority of official state symbols were designated in the last few decades.







Insignia

Type	Symbol	Description	Year	Image	Source
<u>Flag</u>	The <u>Flag of Maryland</u>	Arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. While 1904 was the official date of adoption, the flag has colonial roots. Calvert was the surname of the Lords Baltimore, proprietors of the Maryland colony, and Crossland was the maiden name of the mother of George Calvert, 1st Baron Baltimore.	1904		[1]
<u>Motto</u>	<i>Fatti maschii, parole femine</i> Literally: manly deeds, womanly words Officially: strong deeds, gentle words	The state motto has never been formally adopted, though it was the motto of the Calvert family upon the founding of Maryland in 1634 and appears on the Great Seal of Maryland.	Traditional	—	[2][3]
<u>Nicknames</u>	The Old Line State	The Old Line State might have originated as a nickname given by George Washington during the Revolutionary War to the Maryland line of troops.	Traditional	—	[4]
	The Free State	The Free State originated from an editorial in the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> in 1923 on how Maryland should be free by seceding from the Union rather than prohibiting alcohol.			
<u>Seal</u>	The <u>Great Seal of Maryland</u>	The obverse side shows Lord Baltimore as a knight on a charging horse. The reverse side shows the Calvert seal, a plowman, a fisherman, the state motto and a Latin text that translates as " <i>You have crowned us with the shield of your goodwill.</i> "	1969		[2][3]



<p><u>Coat of arms</u></p>	<p>The coat of arms of Maryland</p>	<p>The Calvert seal, a plowman, a fisherman, the state motto and a Latin text that translates as "You have crowned us with the shield of your goodwill."</p>			<p>[2][3]</p>
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Species




Type	Symbol	Description	Year	Image	Source
<p><u>Bird</u></p>	<p>Baltimore oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i></p>	<p>The male's black and orange feathers are similar to the Calvert seal. This led to the bird receiving its name of Baltimore.</p>	<p>1947</p>		<p>[5]</p>
<p><u>Cat</u></p>	<p>Calico cat</p>	<p>The calico has tri-color fur of orange, black and white, which is the same colors as the Calvert seal.</p>	<p>2001</p>		<p>[6]</p>
<p><u>Crustacean</u></p>	<p>Blue crab <i>Callinectes sapidus</i></p>	<p>The blue crab is found in the Chesapeake Bay and is the most valuable species harvested from the bay.</p>	<p>1989</p>		<p>[7]</p>
<p><u>Dinosaur</u></p>	<p>Astrodon <i>Astrodon johnstoni</i></p>	<p>In 1958, the first <i>Astrodon</i> fossils were found in Maryland. They lived in what is now Maryland from 95 to 130 million years ago.</p>	<p>1998</p>		<p>[8]</p>
<p><u>Dog</u></p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Retriever</p>	<p>Named after the Chesapeake Bay, the retriever was developed in the United States to recover waterfowl for hunters. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's mascot is a retriever.</p>	<p>1964</p>		<p>[9]</p>






<p><u>Fish</u></p>	<p><u>Rock fish</u> <i>Morone saxatilis</i></p>	<p>The rockfish, also called striped bass, is found in abundance in Maryland.</p>	<p>1965</p>		<p>[10]</p>
<p><u>Flower</u></p>	<p><u>Black-eyed susan</u> <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i></p>	<p>A daisy with yellow petals and a dark purple center.</p>	<p>1918</p>		<p>[11]</p>
<p><u>Horse</u></p>	<p><u>Thoroughbred horse</u> <i>Equus caballus</i></p>	<p>The Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown of thoroughbred racing is held at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland.</p>	<p>2003</p>		<p>[12]</p>
<p><u>Insect</u></p>	<p><u>Baltimore checkerspot butterfly</u> (<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>)</p>	<p>The butterfly has orange and black colorings, which is the same colors as the Calvert seal.</p>	<p>1973</p>		<p>[13]</p>
<p><u>Reptile</u></p>	<p><u>Diamondback terrapin</u> <i>Malaclemys terrapin</i></p>	<p>The terrapin were abundant and easy to catch and became a gourmet food until over-harvesting depleted terrapin stocks. The University of Maryland's nickname is the "terrapins".</p>	<p>1994</p>		<p>[14]</p>
<p><u>Tree</u></p>	<p><u>White oak</u> <i>Quercus alba</i></p>	<p>A long-lived and one of the pre-eminent hardwoods of America. It is also the state tree of Illinois and Connecticut. The Wye Oak was believed to be the largest and oldest white oak, being 540 years old until it fell during a thunderstorm in 2002.^[15]</p>	<p>1941</p>		<p>[16]</p>

Geology

Type	Symbol	Description	Year	Image	Source
<u>Fossil</u>	<u><i>Ecphora gardnerae</i></u> <u><i>gardnerae</i></u>	The shell of an extinct snail that is commonly found throughout Maryland.	1994		[17]
<u>Gem</u>	<u>Patuxent River</u> <u>stone</u> <u>an agate</u>	A yellow and red, almost an orange hue, quartz found only in Maryland. It is named after the <u>Patuxent River</u> .	2004		[18]

Culture

Type	Symbol	Description	Year	Image	Source
<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipjack</u>	Skipjacks would dredge the Chesapeake Bay for <u>oysters</u> .	1985		[19]
<u>Dessert</u>	<u>Smith Island</u> <u>Cake</u>	A cake with eight to fifteen layers and chocolate frosting between each layer. The recipe originated from <u>Smith Island, Maryland</u> .	2008		[20]
<u>Drink</u>	<u>Milk</u>		1998		[21]
<u>Exercise</u>	<u>Walking</u>		2008	—	[22]

<u>Folk dance</u>	<u>Square dance</u>	A folk dance with four couples arranged in a square. As of 2011, it is the official state dance for 21 states.	1994		[23]
<u>Liquor</u>	<u>Rye whiskey</u>	Rye whiskey was first produced along the Chesapeake Bay in colonial times, and became popular during the American Civil War. Maryland was once the fifth largest liquor producer in the United States, but prohibition led to the industry's steady decline until the closure of Maryland's last distillery in 1972. Rye distilling would not return to the state until 2014. ^[24]	2023		[24]
<u>Song</u> (former)	From 1939 to 2021, "Maryland, My Maryland", which set lyrics from a poem written by <u>James Ryder Randall</u> to the tune of " <u>O Tannenbaum</u> ", was the Maryland state song. It was repealed and replaced by an act of the Maryland general assembly in 2021. ^[25]		1939–2021 ^[25]		[26]
<u>Sport (individual)</u>	<u>Jousting</u>	Jousting tournaments in the form of <u>ring tournaments</u> have been held in Maryland since colonial times. The Maryland State Jousting Championship has been held annually since 1950 and is sponsored by the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association ^[27]	1962		[28]
<u>Sport (team)</u>	<u>Lacrosse</u>	Lacrosse is the oldest known sport to be played in America. Maryland is home to the <u>National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum</u> .	2004		[28]
<u>Summer theater</u>	<u>Olney Theatre Center</u>	Olney Theatre was founded in 1938 and offers include the	1978	—	[29]

		Summer Shakespeare Festival and summer training programs for High School students.			
<u>Theater</u>	<u>Center Stage</u>	Center Stage was founded in 1963 and is Maryland's largest theater company.	1978	—	[29]

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