

MARYLAND COLONY Reading Comprehension

Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord of Baltimore, founded Maryland in 1632. Cecil's father, George Calvert, had received a royal charter for the land from King Charles I. The new colony was named after Henrietta Maria, the wife of the king. In November of 1633, about 200 Catholic settlers led by Cecil's younger brother boarded the ships Ark and Dove and set sail for Marie's Land (later Maryland).

By 1634, Maryland became one of the few territories of England to be predominately Catholic. The Catholic settlement became known as St. Mary's and is currently the fourth-oldest permanent British settlement in America.

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act was passed, which guaranteed religious tolerance to settlers as long as the religion was a sect of Christianity. After England's "Glorious Revolution" of 1688, which established the Protestant faith in England, Catholicism was outlawed in Maryland until after the Revolutionary War. The Puritan government of Maryland at the time burned down all of southern Maryland's original Catholic churches.

By the 1700s, Maryland and Virginia became plantation economies and grew tobacco as the cash crop. Up to 40 percent of Maryland's population were slaves or convicts who worked in the tobacco fields. Soon, Baltimore, a large port on the Chesapeake Bay, became an important center for tobacco export.

1.) Who was the colony of Maryland named after?

- a.) The wife of the king
- b.) Cecil Calvert
- c.) Mary Calvert
- d.) George Calvert

2.) Who were the first settlers of Maryland?

- a.) Catholics
- b.) People from different religions
- c.) Quakers
- d.) Puritans

3.) Who received the royal charter for Maryland?

- a.) Puritans
- b.) Mary Calvert
- c.) Cecil Calvert
- d.) George Calvert

4.) What made Maryland unique among colonies?

- a.) It was given a royal charter before it was settled.
- b.) Most of its settlers were Catholic.
- c.) 200 settlers were sent to make a colony there.
- d.) It was founded in 1632.

5.) What question is not answered in the first paragraph?

- a.) What were the names of the ships that brought settlers to Maryland?
- b.) What was the name of the first settlement in Maryland?
- c.) How many settlers arrived in Maryland?
- d.) All of the above questions are answered.

6.) What did the Maryland Toleration Act guarantee?

- a.) freedom of religion
- b.) freedom of expression
- c.) freedom of religion for Christians
- d.) land for Catholics

7.) St. Mary's is the _____ settlement in America.

- a.) oldest settlement
- b.) fourth-oldest permanent British settlement
- c.) fourth-oldest permanent settlement
- d.) fourth-oldest settlement

8.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- a.) Maryland eventually became part of Virginia.
- b.) The Catholics would always control Maryland.
- c.) Eventually, the Puritans came to control Maryland.
- d.) Slavery would be outlawed in Maryland.

9.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) If you were to visit parts of Maryland today, you could visit some of the nation's original Catholic churches.
- b.) Baltimore would become an important port for tobacco shipping.
- c.) Tobacco was grown as a cash crop in Maryland.
- d.) All of the above are true.

10.) What does the word "convicts" mean in the following sentence:

Up to 40 percent of Maryland's population were slaves or **convicts** who worked in the tobacco fields.

- a.) farmers
- b.) servants
- c.) miners
- d.) criminals