

Patapsco River



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Patapsco River

The Patapsco River is the river that makes up Baltimore City's harbor. Though highly populated today, John Smith did not meet many people living along the river when he traveled there in 1608. Was there something wrong with the river? Historians now believe that this area may have been a "buffer zone" between the Iroquoian-speaking peoples to the north and the Algonquian-speaking peoples to the south. There were probably many conflicts in this area, but the Patapsco was probably also important for trade and for those looking to travel further inland.