

Petroglyphs



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Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Petroglyphs

Petroglyphs are rock carvings. There are petroglyphs in the Susquehanna River that were carved hundreds of years ago by Algonquian peoples. The Big Indian Rock and Little Indian Rock petroglyphs have drawings of humans, animals, footprints, the moon, thunderbirds, and other symbols. Because stone is so difficult to carve, petroglyphs were most likely made for an important reason, and are thought of as sacred sites. They may have been used for religious rituals, to teach young people, or to record information about geography and astronomy. For example, snake carvings on Little Indian Rock point in the direction of the sunrise and sunset on the equinox and solstice.