

Quadrant



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Quadrant

A quadrant is a tool that John Smith used to create his map of the Chesapeake Bay. He used it to determine his latitude. Latitude lines are imaginary lines that run horizontally across the Earth. Your latitude tells you how far north or south of the equator you are. To measure latitude, Smith would have pointed the quadrant at the horizon. Then, he would have measured the angle between the horizon and the sun. This could only be done at noon, because at noon the sun is at its highest point and it lines up with the equator.