

Susquehanna River



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Susquehanna River

The Chesapeake Bay is a ria: formed when a river valley floods. 12,000 years ago, the last ice age ended. Glaciers melted and flooded the Susquehanna River, creating the Bay. At 444 miles long, the Susquehanna is the longest river on the east coast. People have lived in the Susquehanna river valley for at least 11,000 years. The "Clemson Island" people were the first to farm along the river's banks sometime between 1,100 and 800 years ago. The "Shenk's Ferry" people lived in the valley from the 1200s until the Susquehannock arrived in the 1500s. Europeans began traveling in the area in the 1600s.