



On the eve of the American Revolution, Maryland was a prosperous mid-Atlantic colony. Its population of about 150,000 had replaced all but a few hundred Native Americans. Tens of thousands were enslaved Africans, most of whom worked planting and harvesting tobacco grown on the Eastern and Western Shores of Chesapeake Bay. The demand for grain led to a growth in settlement in the Piedmont region (dark green area on the map) and the rise of cities such as Frederick and Baltimore, which became a major shipping center. The colony's rich iron deposits also spurred economic growth in the mid-1700s. In 1767, the boundary dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania was finally settled with the acceptance of the Mason-Dixon Line. After the war, land for what would become known as Washington, D.C. (see map), was donated by Maryland. One of her native sons, a free black named Benjamin Banneker, helped survey the site.