KIDS TRACK

BEST IN SERVICE

SCENES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS ON THE B&O
B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

KIDS TRACK
THURGOOD MARSHALL

You’ve probably heard of Thurgood Marshall. He’s famous for being the first African American ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but before the whole world knew Thurgood’s name, he was a kid just like you!

Thurgood Marshall was born in 1908 and grew up right here in Baltimore. As a young man, Thurgood often worked for 12-14 hours at a time as a waiter in a B&O Railroad dining car just so that he could afford to go to college. It wasn’t easy to serve food to passengers all day long, but Thurgood knew that all the hard work was worth it if it meant he could get an education. Thurgood went on to become the smartest student in his whole law class at Howard University!

After graduating, he became a lawyer for the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), arguing in the courtroom for racial equality. After all, Thurgood knew that African Americans were being treated unfairly throughout the country and that he had to stand up for what was right. Others began to notice Thurgood’s dedication to equality for all people, regardless of skin color, and in 1967 he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court—the highest court of law in the nation!

As a Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood continued his fight to make the United States a place in which all people are treated fairly, pushing for causes such as civil rights, equality for women, and educational opportunities for all.
THURGOOD MARSHALL: FROM RAILS TO THE SUPREME COURT

Find the words from the word bank in the search below.

**ACTIVITY**

Word Bank:
- Lincoln University
- Howard University
- NAACP
- Civil Rights
- Legal Defense
- Education Fund
- Lawyer
- Equal Rights
- Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals
- Activism
- Brown v Board of Education
CHARLES WRIGHT'S career with the B&O Railroad began on New Year's Day of 1884. Charles was originally hired as a butler, and at the time he probably never imagined that his hard work would eventually lead to a close friendship with a B&O Railroad president, but that's exactly what happened! After several years of service to the B&O, and a few years working for another railroad, Charles was promoted to work in the office of Assistant General Manager Daniel Willard. As they worked together, Charles and Daniel became fast friends. The two men grew so close that when Daniel Willard became president of the B&O, he brought Charles along as the head cook on his personal office car, the B&O No. 99.

The kitchen of train cars were made very tiny in order to fit inside the train car. Can you think of 3 challenges a cook might face in a tiny kitchen on wheels?

1. __________
2. __________
3. __________

FUN FACT

B&O Cooks like Charles Wright had to prepare food in a tiny kitchen, while travelling at speeds of 80-100 miles per hour. Do you think you could prepare a full-course meal on a moving train?

Interested in seeing how small a railroad kitchen is? Explore Car 908 on Platform 2.
Biscuits are a savory part of any big breakfast. But did you know that Bisquick biscuit mix was developed by a railroad cook?

Legend has it that the cook was trying to find a way to make hot fresh biscuits for weary train travelers and developed the recipe for a quick biscuit mix.

**ACTIVITY** Trains are responsible for transporting other important food goods across the country as well. Can you help the train navigate through the maze to deliver the goods to the market?
RED CAPS

Easily identified by their uniform red hats, Red Caps worked as baggage handlers and often assisted the Station Master with large cargo. They also assisted guests and passengers while in the station, making them a valuable member of the customer service industry.

The tradition of the friendly station Red Caps continues today, at Amtrack stations across the country. Modern Red Caps help guests with special needs, small children, and wheel chairs navigate train stations and make their way safely to their train. They are still easily identified by their red hats.

ACTIVITY   CONNECT THE DOTS TO MAKE YOUR OWN RED CAP!
MAGGIE HUDSON: WOMEN TAKE TO THE RAILS

Can you imagine being one of the first women to do a job that had only ever been given to men? Maggie Hudson knew what this felt like when, during World War II, she had the courage to become one of only a few women porters on the B&O Railroad. When she began, there were no porter uniforms for women, so Maggie had to wear the shirt and skirt of a stewardess, topped with a men’s blue uniform cap. As a porter Maggie had many responsibilities, such as helping passengers and conductors alike onto the train, but she didn’t let the pressure of the job—or of being one of the first women to do it—scare her away. In fact, Maggie worked faithfully on the B&O Railroad for 36 years, until she began her well-deserved retirement in 1979.

FUN FACT

Maggie still lives right here in Baltimore, and she has even visited the museum for multiple occasions over the years.

ACTIVITY

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MAGGIE!

This year Maggie will be celebrating her 100th birthday, and we need your help to make it as amazing as Maggie herself! Stop by the Information Desk in Bay 1 today to make a 100th birthday card for Maggie, and we’ll make sure she gets them all. Let’s work together to help make Maggie’s big day very special!
FEARLESS WILLIAMS is said to have been given his unique name when, just after his birth, he stared his father directly in the eyes. Both his first, and middle name “Mentor,” gave young Fearless a great deal to live up to. Fearless started working on the B&O Railroad when he was just 24 years old. At the time, Fearless made $33 per month as a porter, attending to the needs of the passengers during their time on the train. Through hard work, Fearless was able to move in the company and would eventually come to serve under 3 different B&O Railroad presidents. Fearless spent 46 years working on the B&O, and somehow still managed to find time in his personal life to become an insurance agent, the secretary for a building & loan association, the president on a real estate company, and a prominent leader in Baltimore’s African American community. Needless to say, his life and achievements proved him quite worthy of the names “Fearless” and “Mentor.” After all, neither the B&O or the local African American community would have been the same without his lifetime of dedicated service.

FUN FACT

Fearless Williams was uncle to another major figure featured in this very packet! Thurgood Marshall, a fellow B&O employee and eventual Supreme Court Justice, would’ve known Fearless affectionately as his “Uncle Fee.”
ACROSS

1. The laws that kept people segregated on trains based on race.
4. This employee was easily identified by their signature bright hat.
5. B&O Employee who went on to become a supreme court justice.
6. This movement was started in an effort to finally give all Americans equal rights.
7. This famous baking invention came from tiny railway kitchens.
8. One of the first female employees to be paid wages equal to her male coworkers.

DOWN

2. Person on the train responsible for collecting tickets.
3. A lifelong B&O employee, this individual was also a Justice of the Peace and the president of a real estate company.

ANSWERS