

The National Hard Crab Derby Activity Packet for Grades 9-12

Hello Educators!

The Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce is happy to provide you with some fun and engaging educational materials for your students so that they can learn all about one of our signature events, the National Hard Crab Derby held every Labor Day weekend in Crisfield, Maryland. This event began in 1947 to showcase the proud crabbing heritage in Crisfield and has been entertaining families ever since! We hope to continue the excitement of the event and draw students and their families to attend and enjoy for years to come.

These materials were designed to fit curriculum learning goals and objectives and are easily differentiated to meet the needs of your students.

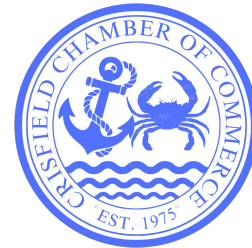
Feel free to use these activities by copying from this paper version and/or use the digital resources and information found at:

NationalHardCrabDerby.com

More crab-centered activities, lessons, and assessments will be added so please check back from time to time.

The Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the National Hard Crab Derby committee would like to thank you for using these educational materials in your classroom to the promote the legacy of the event! If you have any questions or comments please email office@crisfieldchamberofcommerce.com, call 410-968-2500 or stop by the Chamber Office and Visitor Center at 906 W. Main St., Crisfield, MD.

Sincerely,
Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce
National Hard Crab Derby Committee



We would like to thank the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for providing funding for this project.



This project has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority but does not necessarily reflect its views or policies.



Grades 9-12 Activity Packet Includes:

1. **Design a National Hard Crab Derby Program Project:** students will design/create a section for a National Hard Crab Derby Program by including important information about events—history, significance, typical participants, impact for local community, heritage of Crisfield, sustainability of festival, and about Crisfield (live, work, play)
 - Copy this paper version or copy and share in Google Classroom from the digital resources at: NationalHardCrabDerby.com
 - Differentiate by content, process and/or product (can model after existing programs and modify amount of information for each event/topic while creating their own derby program)
2. **Digital Game "Crab Boats"**—students will create and play, a cooperative crab-related game using Slides in Google Drive
 - Have students use a copy of the game "Crab Boats" in Slides in Google Drive to play with a partner OR
 - Students will create their own version of "Crab Boats" using different graphics to create their game in Slides in Google Drive to share and play with a partner

Get a digital copy of the game at NationalHardCrabDerby.com under More>Educational Resources

3. **Art Pages**—for FREE student admission to the National Hard Crab Derby!

National Hard Crab Derby

and Fair



Derby Program Design Project (Grades 9-12)

Focus: Social Studies, Art, Language Arts,
Media

**SILVER ANNIVERSARY
1948 - 1972**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3, 1972, CRISFIELD, MD.

50¢

Overall Learning Goal: to research, plan, design and create a section of a National Hard Crab Derby program by describing the heritage events and how people live, work and play in Crisfield, Maryland.

Objectives:

- use research skills to find pertinent information about a topic
- describe key events at the National Hard Derby and their historical significance as part of the heritage of Crisfield
- identify and describe kinds of homes people typically live in Crisfield, MD
- identify and describe the type of work is available in Crisfield, Maryland
- identify and describe ways people entertain themselves in Crisfield, Maryland
- compare and contrast using a Hard Crab Derby program from earlier times

Specific Grade Level Objectives:

Create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program: include important information about events—history, significance, typical participants, impact for local community, heritage of Crisfield, sustainability of festival, about Crisfield—live, work, play

See examples from past derby

programs—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

Grade 9: cover, crab races, parade

Grade 10: cover, Crustacean pageant, cooking

Grade 11: cover, boat docking (watermen), entertainment

Grade 12: cover, crab picking contest, history of derby, organizers including Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and how different community organizations and businesses come together to support the National Hard Crab Derby

The learner will:

- Understand the importance of a program for visitors to the National Hard Crab Derby (Language Arts—reading, Media)
- Analyze National Hard Crab Derby programs from years past to identify key elements (cover design, events, information about Crisfield, advertisements etc) (Language Arts—reading, Media, Business)
- Design and create a section of their own National Hard Crab Derby program with current information and data about Crisfield (Live, Work, Play) (Language Arts—reading/writing, Media, art, Social Studies, Math—data interpretation)
- Compare and Contrast a Hard Crab Derby program from the past with their own program (Language Arts—reading, media, Social Studies)
- Describe how the National Hard Crab Derby demonstrates the history and heritage of Crisfield and the Chesapeake Bay area. (Language Arts—writing, oral communication, Social Studies—history)

Assessment Rubric: Create Your Own Program for the National Hard Crab Derby

Name:

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Understand the importance of a program	Shows little to no understanding	Shows some understanding	Shows appropriate understanding	Shows significant understanding
Identify and includes key elements of programs	Can identify and include a few key elements	Can identify and include some key elements	Can identify and include key elements with important details	Can identify and include key elements with a significant amount of important details
Design and create a section of their own National Hard Crab Derby program with current information and data about Crisfield (Live, Work, Play)	Can design and create a program with a few pieces of important information and data	Can design and create a program with some important information and data	Can design and create a program with important information and data	Can design and create a program with a lot of important information and use of data
Describe how the National Hard Crab Derby demonstrates the history and heritage of Crisfield and the Chesapeake Bay area.	Can describe how the National Hard Crab Derby shows the history and heritage of Crisfield with a few details	Can describe how the National Hard Crab Derby shows the history and heritage of Crisfield with some details	Can describe how the National Hard Crab Derby shows the history and heritage of Crisfield	Can describe how the National Hard Crab Derby shows the history and heritage of Crisfield in great detail.
Compare and Contrast a Hard Crab Derby program from the past with their own program	Can compare and contrast using a few details	Can compare and contrast using some amount of details	Can compare and contrast using an appropriate amount of details	Can compare and contrast using a significant amount of details

Create Your Own National Hard Crab Derby Program

You will create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program. It must include important information:

- Describe some events held at the derby—explanation, history, significance, typical participants etc
- Describe the heritage of Crisfield (What makes Crisfield unique—past and present)
- Describe Crisfield—live, work, play (where people **live**, type of **work**, **play** (what people do in their leisure time)
- Explain the impact the National Hard Crab derby has for Crisfield's local community and sustainability of the annual festival
- Compare and Contrast your program with a program from years past (How has the Hard Crab Derby changed and/or stayed the same over the years)

See examples of programs from

past—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

Grade level focus:

Grade 9: Cover, Events: crab races, parade

Grade 10: Cover, Events: Crustacean pageant, cooking contest

Grade 11: Cover, boat docking (watermen), entertainment

Grade 12: Cover, crab picking contest, history of derby, organizers including Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and how different community organizations and businesses come together to support the National Hard Crab Derby

Create Your Own National Hard Crab Derby Program (9th Grade)

You will create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program. It must include important information:

- Describe some events held at the derby—explanation, history, significance, typical participants etc
- Describe the heritage of Crisfield (What makes Crisfield unique—past and present)
- Describe Crisfield—live, work, play (where people **live**, type of **work**, **play** (what people do in their leisure time)
- Explain the impact the National Hard Crab derby has for Crisfield's local community
- Compare and Contrast your program with a program from years past (How has the Hard Crab Derby changed and/or stayed the same over the years?)

See examples of programs from

past—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

9th Grade:

- Create and design a program cover,
- Describe the following events: crab races, parade

Create Your Own National Hard Crab Derby Program (10th Grade)

You will create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program. It must include important information:

- Describe some events held at the derby—explanation, history, significance, typical participants etc
- Describe the heritage of Crisfield (What makes Crisfield unique—past and present)
- Describe Crisfield—live, work, play (where people **live**, type of **work**, **play** (what people do in their leisure time)
- Explain the impact the National Hard Crab derby has for Crisfield's local community and Somerset County
- Compare and Contrast your program with a program from years past (How has the Hard Crab Derby changed and/or stayed the same over the years?)

See examples of programs from

past—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

10th Grade:

- Create and design a program cover,
- Describe the following events: Crustacean pageants, cooking contest

Create Your Own National Hard Crab Derby Program (11th Grade)

You will create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program. It must include important information:

- Describe some events held at the derby—explanation, history, significance, typical participants etc
- Describe the heritage of Crisfield (What makes Crisfield unique—past and present)
- Describe Crisfield—live, work, play (where people **live**, type of **work**, **play** (what people do in their leisure time)
- Explain the impact the National Hard Crab derby has for Crisfield's local community and the Eastern Shore (including the sustainability of the annual festival)
- Compare and Contrast your program with a program from years past (How has the Hard Crab Derby changed and/or stayed the same over the years?)

See examples of programs from

past—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

11th Grade:

- Create and design a program cover,
- Describe the following events: boat docking, entertainment

Create Your Own National Hard Crab Derby Program (12th Grade)

You will create/design a section for the National Hard Crab Derby Program. It must include important information:

- Describe some events held at the derby—explanation, history, significance, typical participants etc
- Describe the heritage of Crisfield (What makes Crisfield unique—past and present)
- Describe Crisfield—live, work, play (where people **live**, type of **work**, **play** (what people do in their leisure time)
- Explain the impact the National Hard Crab derby has for Crisfield's local community and the state of Maryland (including the sustainability of the annual festival)
- Compare and Contrast your program with a program from years past (How has the Hard Crab Derby changed and/or stayed the same over the years?)

See examples of programs from

past—<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/socd/search>

12th Grade:

- Create and design a program cover,
- Describe the following events: crab picking contest
- Describe the history of the National Hard Crab Derby, including the organizers—Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and how different community organizations and businesses come together to support the National Hard Crab Derby

Crab Boats

To play Crab Boats two players secretly place five ships on their grid, then take turns calling out coordinates (e.g., B-4) to find and sink the opponent's crab boats, marking hits (red x's) and misses (white o's) until one player sinks all five boats to win.

Directions:

1. On your game board add your 5 crab boats by placing them vertical, horizontal or diagonal on the specific # of spaces (see below).
2. Take turns calling out ordered pairs for a specific coordinate location (ie. D,5)
3. If the coordinate has a boat on it, your partner says HIT, if it does not have a boat in that space your partner says MISS.
4. Mark your HITS and MISSES on your second slide so that you can keep track of them and find all of your partners boats. Keep track of their HITS and MISSES on your own slide to keep track of the attack on your crab boats.
5. Keep taking turns until someone HITS all the parts of the crab boat and your says, "You Sank My: Crab Boat Name"
6. Keep playing until someone has sunk all the crab boats their partner has on the water!

In Google Slides, Copy the Crab Boats game or create your own:

To Create in Google Slides:

1. Create a new slide show with 2 slides on a blue water background and label it Crab Boats Game "My Crab Boats" and Crab Boats Game "My Friends Crab Boats" (one is for your boats, the other is for marking your guesses when trying to find your friend's crab boats) *Hint: make one slide that you like and then "duplicate" under edit to use that same side that you can easily edit.
2. Create a 10x10 grid by inserting a table and label A-I horizontally across the top and 1-9 vertically along the side.
3. Make 5 crab boats with rectangles under shapes (or other symbols/pictures) matching the size of board spaces with labels for each): 5x1 Deadrise, 4x1 Buyboat, 3x1 Skipjack, 2x1 Skiff, 1x1 Crab-Scrape
4. Make 1 red x and 1 white o (or other symbols) that you will copy and paste to mark hits and misses while finding your friends crab boats
5. Keep this as your master copy and use to make copies for your games with friends
6. Share your COPY of the game slides with your friend and then make another copy of the slides to position your crab boats around your grid and mark your guesses (don't show your friend!)
7. Once everyone has their boats placed where they want them, start sinking your partner's crab boats!

My Crab Boats

Put crab boats on your own copy of play grid (don't show your friend!) Mark any HITS and MISSES!

Deadrise

Skiff

Buyboat

Skipjack

Crab-Scrape

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

X is hit
X
O is miss
O

My Friends Crab Boats

Mark your HITS and MISSES of crab boat locations

5x1 Deadrise

2x1 Skiff

4x1 Buyboat

3x1 Skipjack

1x1 Crab-Scrape

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A									
B									
C									
D									
E									
F									
G									
H									
I									

X is hit
hit
X
O is miss
miss
O

Race your own crab!

79TH

Boat Docking!

Carnival rides!

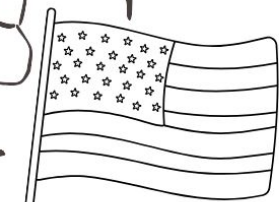
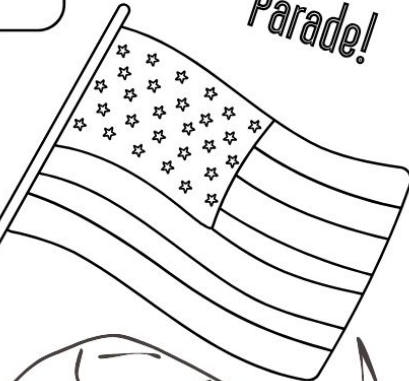
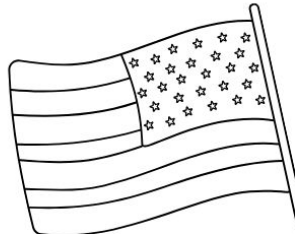
NATIONAL

Crab Picking Contest!

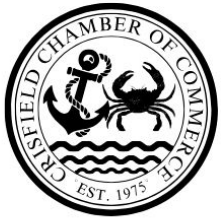
HARD CRAB

Parade!

DERBY!



Color and bring this page for
ONE FREE Student Gate Entry!
79th National Hard Crab Derby
Labor Day Weekend
September 4-6th, 2026
Crisfield, MD



Visit: NationalHardCrabDerby.com