

Name _____

Date _____

Delaware

Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution of the United States. It was admitted to the Union on December 7, 1787. The state of Delaware has many nicknames. The most common one is The First State, but it is also called The Small Wonder, The Blue Hen State, and The Diamond State.

The state bird of Delaware is the blue hen chicken. The state flower is the peach blossom. Delaware's motto is "Liberty and Independence," and the state tree is the American holly.

The state of Delaware gets its name from Thomas West, who was the Thirds Baron De La Warr. He was Virginia's first colonial governor and a British nobleman.

Rhode Island is the smallest state in the United States, but Delaware is the second smallest state. It is only 96 miles long. It ranges from 9 to 35 miles across. Delaware shares a northern border with Pennsylvania. Delaware's western and southern borders are shared with Maryland. To the east, Delaware is met by the Delaware River and the Delaware Bay. New Jersey is located on the other side of these waters.

Situated between Delaware Bay and the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware is located in the eastern section of the Delmarva Peninsula. The state of Delaware has only three counties, which are Castle County, Kent County, and Sussex County. While Wilmington is the largest city in Delaware, the capitol of Delaware is Dover.

From a colonization perspective, the first Europeans to settle in present-day Delaware were the Dutch. They created a trading post at Zwaanendael in 1631. All of the settlers were killed within a year because of a dispute with the Native American tribes in the area. In 1638, Peter Minuit established a Swedish colony and trading post at Fort Christina. The Dutch later established a fort in what is now known as New Castle. They took over the Swedish colony and called the area New Netherland.

In 1664, the Dutch were removed under the direction of James, the Duke of York. The Duke passed his ownership to William Penn in 1682. Penn established a representative government in Delaware. Penn also had possession of Pennsylvania, and Penn appointed the same person as governor of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Initially, Delaware was not enthusiastic about breaking ties with Britain during the American Revolution because the merchants in Wilmington had trading ties with the British. In spite of this, the leaders of Delaware recognized that a break from Britain was in their best interests if they wanted to exist as a separate entity. As a result, Thomas McKean, a lawyer in New Castle, denounced the Stamp Act. In addition, John Dickinson, a Kent County native, became the "Penman of the Revolution."

Delaware's forces in the Continental Army were known as the "Delaware Blues" and were also nicknamed the "Blue Hen Chickens." The only battle of the American Revolution that was fought in Delaware was the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. This battle took place on September 3, 1777, in New Castle County. It is believed that the American flag was first flown in battle at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.

Much of Delaware's development is tied to the impact of the DuPont family, which founded one of the world's largest chemical companies.

Name _____

Date _____

Delaware Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. The name Delaware comes from:
 - a. West Pennsylvania
 - b. Thomas West
 - c. Thomas DuPont
 - d. West DuPont
2. Pennsylvania was the _____ state admitted to the Union:
 - a. first
 - b. sixth
 - c. second
 - d. ninth
3. The motto of Delaware is:
 - a. Freedom and Independence
 - b. Revolution and Freedom
 - c. Liberty and Diamonds
 - d. Liberty and Independence

Fill In:

4. The Capitol of Delaware is _____.
5. The largest city in Delaware is _____.
6. Delaware's state flower is the _____.
7. The state of Delaware has _____ counties.

True or False:

- _____ 8. Delaware is the second smallest state.
- _____ 9. The first Europeans to settle in Delaware were the Dutch.
- _____ 10. Five battles of the American Revolution were fought in Delaware.

Name _____

Date _____

Delaware Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. The name Delaware comes from:

- a. West Pennsylvania
- b. Thomas West
- c. Thomas DuPont
- d. West DuPont

2. Pennsylvania was the _____ state admitted to the Union:

- a. first
- b. sixth
- c. second
- d. ninth

3. The motto of Delaware is:

- a. Freedom and Independence
- b. Revolution and Freedom
- c. Liberty and Diamonds
- d. Liberty and Independence

Fill In:

4. The Capitol of Delaware is _____ **Dover** _____.

5. The largest city in Delaware is _____ **Wilmington** _____.

6. Delaware's state flower is the _____ **peach blossom** _____.

7. The state of Delaware has _____ **three** _____ counties.

True or False:

___ **T** ___ 8. Delaware is the second smallest state.

___ **T** ___ 9. The first Europeans to settle in Delaware were the Dutch.

___ **F** ___ 10. Five battles of the American Revolution were fought in Delaware.