

DELAWARE COLONY Reading Comprehension

The Dutch first settled Delaware in 1631, although all of the original settlers were killed in a disagreement with local Indians. Seven years later, the Swedes set up a colony and trading post at Fort Christina in the northern part of Delaware. Today, Fort Christina is called Wilmington. In 1651, the Dutch reclaimed the area and built a fort near present-day New Castle. By 1655, the Dutch had forcibly removed the Swedes from the area and reincorporated Delaware into their empire. In 1664, however, the British removed the Dutch from the East Coast.

After William Penn was granted the land that became Pennsylvania in 1682, he persuaded the Duke of York to lease him the western shore of Delaware Bay so that his colony could have an outlet to the sea. The Duke agreed and henceforth, Penn's original charter included the northern sections of present-day Delaware, which became known as "The Lower Counties on the Delaware."

The decision by the Duke angered Lord Baltimore, the first proprietary governor of Maryland, who believed he had the rights to it. A lengthy and occasionally violent 100-year conflict between Penn's heirs and Baltimore's heirs was finally settled when Delaware's border was defined in 1750 and when the Maryland/Pennsylvania and Maryland/Delaware borders were defined as part of the Mason-Dixon line in 1768.

Shortly after the incorporation of the "Lower Counties" into Pennsylvania, the sparsely populated region grew isolated from the bustling city of Philadelphia and began holding their own legislative assemblies, though they remained subjects of the Pennsylvania governor. It wasn't until 1776, however, that Delaware had a government completely independent from Pennsylvania. In 1787, Delaware became the first colony to ratify the U.S. Constitution, and hence became America's first state.

1.) The original settlers of Delaware...

- a.) returned to England.
- b.) established a permanent colony.
- c.) were killed by Indians.
- d.) emigrated to Pennsylvania.

2.) The Swedes...

- a.) set up a colony after the Dutch.
- b.) set up their colony after the British.
- c.) never set up a colony.
- d.) set up a colony before the Dutch.

3.) Wilmington, Delaware, used to be known as _____.

- a.) Maryland
- b.) New Castle
- c.) Baltimore
- d.) Fort Christina

4.) Which of the following is the correct timeline for ownership of Delaware?

- a.) Dutch > Swedes > Dutch > English
- b.) Swedes > Dutch > Swedes > English
- c.) Dutch > English > Swedes > English
- d.) Dutch > English > Dutch > Swedes

5.) Why did William Penn want the western shore of Delaware Bay?

- a.) So that settlers could be guaranteed the right to practice their religion
- b.) So his colony had a way to get to the sea
- c.) So his colony could trade with Indians in the region
- d.) So his colony had more land

6.) Disagreements concerning the borders of Delaware resulted in hostilities between...

- a.) The governor of Delaware and Lord Baltimore
- b.) the British and French
- c.) heirs of William Penn and heirs of Lord Baltimore
- d.) William Penn and Lord Baltimore

7.) The Mason-Dixon line defined borders between what states? Select all that are true.

- a.) Delaware and Pennsylvania
- b.) Maryland and Delaware
- c.) Maryland and Virginia
- d.) Pennsylvania and New York

8.) In 1776...

- a.) Delaware became part of Pennsylvania.
- b.) Delaware rejected the Mason-Dixon line.
- c.) Delaware established a government independent of Pennsylvania.
- d.) Philadelphia absorbed Delaware.

9.) Delaware became the _____ state to ratify the Constitution.

- a.) second
- b.) first
- c.) third
- d.) fourth

10.) What question is answered in the last paragraph?

- a.) What was the capital of Delaware?
- b.) Who was Lord Baltimore?
- c.) What states border Delaware?
- d.) When did Delaware ratify the Constitution?