## Introduction

Exploring the United States: Timelines, Critical Thinking, and Map Work Volume 1 explores the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, and Virginia. It's ideal for 9th-12th grade. A short introduction to each state is provided along with 20 facts that the students must arrange in a timeline. Five critical thinking questions are also included for each state, challenging the students to do independent research and form their own conclusions regarding important issues and events in the state's past as well as current events.

Each state's map work includes an outline of the state on which students can draw the location of major cities, bodies of water, mountains, and bordering states or bodies of water. The location of these places does not need to be exact; the exercise is meant to help students become familiar with the approximate location of the places and their relation to each other.

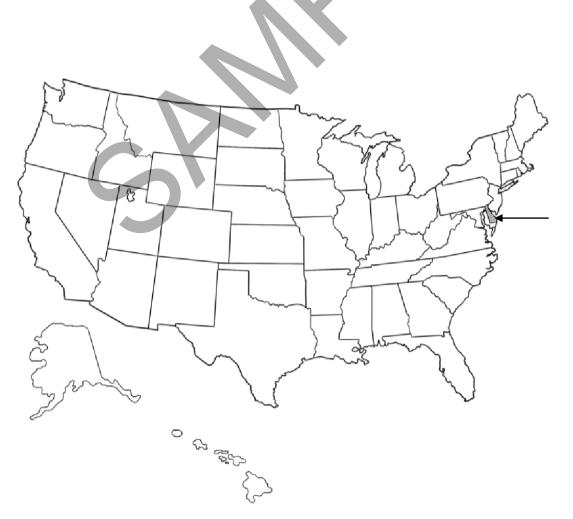
Each book concludes with 10 additional state chronology projects that combines timeline information for all 10 states covered in the unit.

Get ready for a deeper look at the history of ten of our United States!

## December 7, 1787 Delaware Becomes a State

Delaware is the second-smallest state in the Union, however, because of its favorable business laws, many companies have their headquarters there, which adds jobs to the economy. Since the earliest days of European settlement there were questions as to who Delaware belonged to. Dutch settlers tried to start a colony, but it failed. Swedish settlers started the colony of New Sweden in present-day Delaware, but the Dutch established a fort there. Swedish colonists captured the fort, but the Dutch retaliated by capturing all of New Sweden and making it part of New Netherland. Later, the English captured all of New Netherland, including present-day Delaware, making it all part of the colony of New York. In time, the King of England gave William Penn land for the colony that came to be Pennsylvania and included Delaware in the land grant. As time went on, Delaware asked to be allowed to have a separate legislature, and William Penn allowed it. Those conditions remained until the Revolutionary War. Some famous people from Delaware include Annie Jump Cannon, John M. Clayton, Harry Coover, George Welch, Nancy J. Currie, Caesar Rodney, Samuel Davies, and George Ross.

Look at the map of Delaware on the next page. Label the capital of Delaware. Locate the cities of Wilmington, Harrington, Camden, Lincoln, Odessa, Delmar, Frederica, Seaford, Millsboro, Newark, Smyrna, and Glasgow, and add them to the map. Also, locate the Delaware River, St. Jones River, Nanticoke River, Smyrna River, Christina River, Leipsic River, Mispillion River, and Murderkill River, and add them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Delaware.



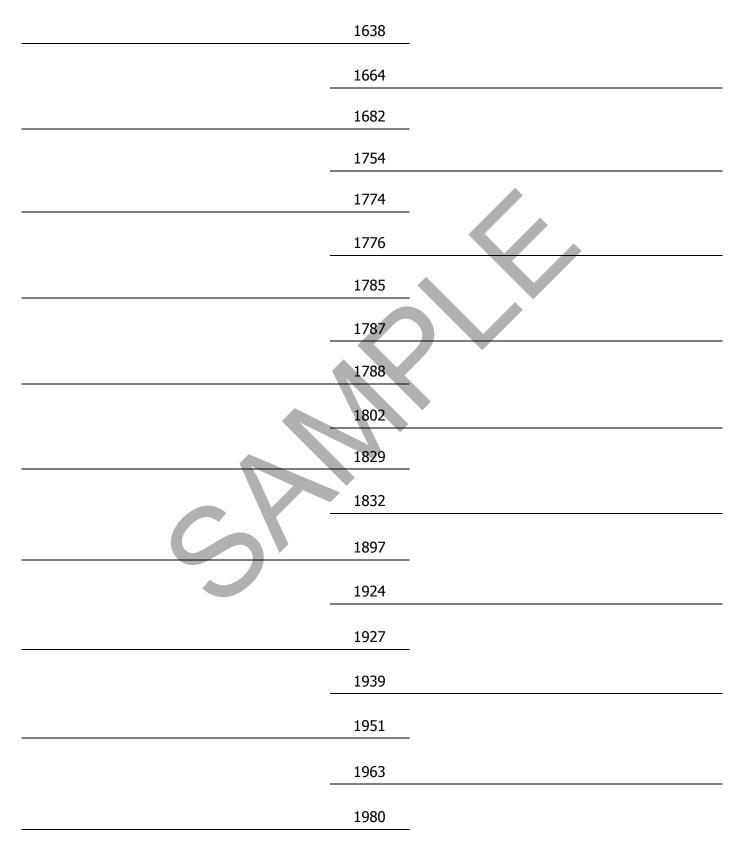
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Delaware



## Timeline of Delaware History

Use the facts on the following page to complete the timeline.



2000

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- 1. England captures all the area of Delaware when it captures New Netherland
- 2. The Blue Hen chicken is officially adopted as Delaware's state bird
- 3. Delaware votes unanimously to ratify the United States Constitution, becoming the first state in the Union
- 4. Delaware adopts its present constitution
- 5. Delaware votes for independence at the Second Continental Congress
- 6. Delaware elects its first female governor
- 7. The Library Company of Wilmington, now the Wilmington Public Library, is incorporated
- 8. Delaware establishes a system of public education
- 9. Delaware sends delegates to the First Continental Congress
- 10. The Delaware Memorial Bridge across the Delaware River opens, connecting Delaware and New Jersey
- 11. The Duke of York gives the Delaware area to William Penn as part of a land grant
- 12. The first trip in Delaware by a train pulled by a steam locomotive occurs
- 13. President John F. Kennedy visits Delaware to dedicate the opening of Highway Interstate 95 at the border of Delaware and Maryland
- 14. The first successful newspaper in present-day Delaware, The Delaware Gazette, is published
- 15. The DuPont Highway, Route 13, is completed and opened to traffic
- 16. The state approves a constitutional limit that does not allow the government to spend more than 95% of its expected income
- 17. Swedish settlers come to the area and found New Sweden, the first permanent colony in the area
- 18. Delaware's chemical industry gets its start when Éleuthère Irénée du Pont, a French immigrant, establishes a powder mill on Brandywine Creek
- 19. F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife move into a mansion known as Ellerslie near the Delaware River in Edgemoor, Delaware
- 20. The first library in present-day Delaware is established in Wilmington

Do some research on what is necessary for the Delaware legislature to amend the state constitution. Do you agree with the method that is lawful in Delaware? Do you think this is the best way to represent the desires of the people? Do you think this method makes people more careful about who they vote into office?

The state of Delaware has a constitutional limit that does not allow the government to spend more than 95% of its expected income. Do you think this is a wise way to handle finances? Do you think it would be wise if other states and the nation adopted a similar policy? What about personal finances? How do you think they should be handled?

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During the War of 1812, British ships stopped bringing goods to the United States. To compensate for this, new industries came into existence in Delaware and other states. Look at the United States today and research how much is imported and how much is produced in the United States for its population. What would happen if something prevented the importation of goods? Could the United States build or retool industries to make what would be needed? Could people be trained fast enough to do the jobs? Should the United States learn to be more self-sufficient? If so, how would the nation do this?

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England captured all of the area of Delaware when they captured New Netherland. Then, the Duke of York gave the Delaware area to William Penn as part of a land grant. Do some research to find out if the people who were originally in the area of Delaware were able to keep their properties and continue living the way they wanted or if they were forced to leave their property when the new country took over. While there were many differences, do you see any correlation between the way the settlers from other countries were treated when the land was transferred from the rule of one country to another with the way the Native Americans were treated when the European settlers moved into new areas of the United States? Explain.

In 1638, Swedish settlers came to the area of present-day Delaware and founded New Sweden, the first permanent colony in the area. Many new settlers came to New Sweden from Sweden and Finland. The Dutch captured New Sweden and made it part of New Netherland. Later, the English captured New Netherland. How do you think the people who were descended from the original Swedish and Finnish settlers felt as they were made to live under the rule of different countries over time? Do you think it made it difficult to preserve their culture and traditions? Why or why not?

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