



The Mini Page

Next Week:
The Supreme Court

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Founded by Betty Debnam

America's First State



photo by Michele Dorsey Wallfred

Mini Fact:

More than 180 species of shellfish and fish live in Delaware's waters.

The Mini Page will be learning about America's 50 states in upcoming issues. First up is a northeastern state: Delaware!

Discovering Delaware

Delaware was America's first state. The first European to explore the area was probably Henry Hudson, who discovered it for the Netherlands in 1609. A year later, a sailor from the Virginia Colony discovered Delaware Bay.

The Swedish, English and Pennsylvania Colony also claimed it. Delaware became a state in 1776. It was a slave state, but fought for the Union during the Civil War. It is the second-smallest state; only Rhode Island is smaller. It is the 45th most-populated state, with about 1 million people.

Laws make it easy for corporations to set up business in Delaware. Many companies claim Delaware as their home, or **incorporate** there, even though many do their work elsewhere. It is also one of the biggest banking and insurance states.

Chemical firms such as the DuPont Co. make Delaware a top research state. Manufacturing of paper, food, rubber and plastics products is important.



Delaware at a glance

- The American holly is the state tree.
- Christmas seals were first sold in the U.S. in Wilmington in 1907 to raise money for ending a disease called **tuberculosis**.
- Dover is the capital, with about 39,000 people.
- The Dover Air Force Base has the biggest air freight terminal in the military.
- Eleuthere Irenee du Pont, a former French citizen, started a gunpowder mill near Wilmington in 1802. During the Civil War, it supplied about half of the gunpowder used by the Union Army. Later, the DuPont company grew into one of the top chemical firms in the world, with plants in 70 countries.
- The "First State" is its nickname because it was the first of the 13 Colonies to **ratify**, or vote in favor of, the U.S. Constitution, in 1787.
- Forest covers about 27% of the land in Delaware.
- The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum near Wilmington is one of many museums and gardens given to the area by the du Pont family.



Delaware's flag

Fast Facts

- Gravel, sand and magnesium are mined in Delaware.
- Thomas Jefferson called Delaware a jewel among the states and gave it the nickname the Diamond State.
- The ladybug is the state insect, named when a class of second-graders convinced the state legislature to adopt it.
- The blue hen chicken is the state bird.
- More horseshoe crabs are in Delaware Bay than anyplace else in the world.
- People in Delaware often fish for clams, sea bass, eels and carp.
- The Atlantic Ocean borders 28 miles of eastern shoreline. Counting other bodies of water such as rivers, the state's total coastline is about 400 miles.
- **Broiler chickens**, or chickens raised specifically for meat production, are the top agricultural product in Delaware. Soybeans, corn and dairy are also important.



Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPdelaware
- bit.ly/MPYdelaware

At the library:

- "Delaware (A True Book: My United States)" by Melissa McDaniel

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Delaware are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CLAIMED, CORN, CHICKENS, DAIRY, DELAWARE, DOVER, DUPONT, FIRST, FISHING, GARDENS, GRAVEL, LADYBUG, MAGNESIUM, NETHERLANDS, SAND, SOYBEANS, STATE.

F G M X D U P O N T S A N D D
I A I K U G U B Y D A L E U C
S R S D N A L R E H T E N L L
H D K R A Z D A I R Y O Z J A
I E S E N G R A V E L B L N I
N N T V R V M A G N E S I U M
G S A O O I P T S R I F X D E
P F T D C E R A W A L E D B D
W P E K S N A E B Y O S L T X
W S N E K C I H C S G X L Z R



Mini Jokes



Darlene: Where do you find Google in February?
Dean: In the winternet.

Eco Note



The United States declared that the northern long-eared bat is endangered because the species has been driven to the brink of extinction by white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease. "White-nose syndrome is decimating cave-dwelling bat species like the northern long-eared bat at unprecedented rates," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. The disease was first identified in 2006 and has since infected 12 different types of bats, killing millions. It attacks bats' wings, muzzles and ears when they hibernate in caves and mines. Spinning wind turbines are also killing large numbers of the species.

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For later:

Look in the newspaper for articles about Delaware.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



Cook's Corner

Peanut Butter Ice Cream Pie

You'll need:

- 1.5-quart container reduced-fat vanilla ice cream
- 15 miniature chocolate peanut butter candies
- 1 prepared chocolate pie crust

- chocolate or caramel sauce (as desired)



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Spoon ice cream into a large glass bowl; microwave for 25 seconds to soften.
2. Cut miniature peanut butter chocolate candies into fourths (60 pieces).
3. Stir candies into softened ice cream and distribute evenly.
4. Spoon ice cream mixture into prepared pie crust. Freeze until well set.
5. Drizzle chocolate sauce or caramel sauce over ice cream before serving. Serves 6 to 8.

1. Building where objects of interest or value are displayed (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. One of the units of a nation (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. People who buy, exchange or sell goods (7-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Small, rounded red beetle with black spots (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. When will Tom tour the Winterthur _____?
2. What _____ named the blue hen chicken as its bird?
3. _____ used canals to reach the east and the Atlantic.
4. Billy learned that Delaware's state insect is the _____.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Museum, State, Traders, Ladybug.

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