

Unit 5, Lesson 17: Exploring the Delaware Colony

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will read to acquire content knowledge about the early history of Delaware from the Smithsonian book entitled “Exploring the Delaware Colony” by Lori McManus (available [here](#)). The content will then be coupled with the Delaware history standards in the lesson’s checks for understanding.

Delaware Content Standards:

- History Standard 1, 4-5 [Chronology]: Students will study historical events and persons within a given time frame in order to create a chronology and identify related cause-effect factors.
- History Standard 2a, 4-5 [Analysis]: Students will draw historical conclusions and construct historical accounts from primary and secondary source materials
- History Standard 2b, 4-5 [Analysis]: Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; chronologically arrange them; and analyze change over time.
- History Standard 4, 4-5 [Content]: Students will develop an understanding of selected themes in United States history, including...important people in American history

Big Ideas:

- causes-effects, change over time

Essential Question:

- How did Delaware develop and change as a colony?

Enduring Understandings:

Delaware was originally inhabited and controlled by Native Americans known as the Lenni Lenape as well as other European countries, then developed into an independent English colony as a result of a series of conflicts.

Resources:

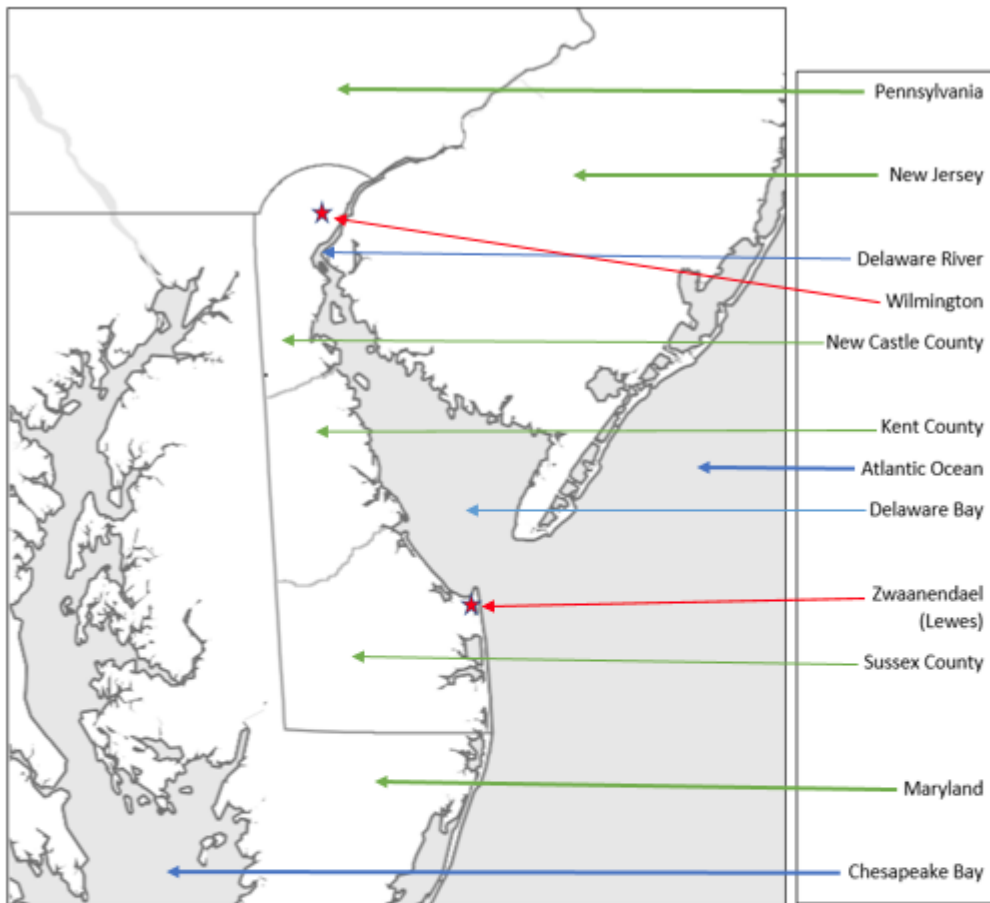
- [Google Slides](#)
- [Resource 1: Developing a Mental map](#)
- [Resource 2: Text Questions - Exploring the Delaware Colony](#)
 - [PDF of Reading](#)
- [Resource 3a & 3b: Create a Timeline](#)
- [Resource 4: Checks for Understanding](#)

Procedures

1. **Introduce the Lesson:** Tell students that they will be learning about the history of the area that became the colony of Delaware.
2. **Develop Students’ Mental Maps:** Distribute copies of [Resource 1](#). Guide students through the completion of the activity by showing them the locations of the places that appear to the right of the map.
3. **Build Content Knowledge Through Reading:** Read pages 10-35 in *Exploring the Delaware Colony* by Lori McManus (available [here](#) in hardcover or through Amazon in paperback [here](#)).

4. Use the questions on [Resource 2](#) to focus students' readings and build their content knowledge of Delaware's early colonial history. Answers to the questions are provided for teachers toward the end of the lesson - see below.
5. **Create a Timeline:** Distribute copies of [Resources 3a and 3b](#). Read the directions aloud as students follow along then give the students time to complete the timeline.
6. **Checks for Understanding:** Distribute copies of [Resource 4](#) and have students complete the checks for understanding.

Teacher Resource 1: Sample Answers



Draw Conclusions

1. Why might Delaware's location have made it a place that many Native Americans and European people wanted to control? [e.g., access to bodies of water for transportation, food and other natural resources; access to a bay and river that facilitated trade and communication with other colonies and cities etc.]
2. Why might Europeans have chosen Zwaanendael and Wilmington as places to start their first settlements? [e.g., access to bodies of water for transportation, food and other natural resources; access to a bay and river that facilitated trade and communication with other colonies and cities; protection from coastal threats such as pirates and enemy navies; proximity to cities like Philadelphia]

Teacher Resource 2 - See Resources 3a and 3b...chronological order of events in Delaware history

- Lenni Lenape lived in Delaware [before 1609]
- Henry Hudson claimed Delaware for the Dutch (1609)
- Dutch settle Zwaanendael in Delaware (1629)
- Swedes settle Fort Christina in Delaware (1638)
- Dutch take Fort Christina (1655)
- England takes over Delaware as part of New York (1664)
- Delaware became part of Pennsylvania (1681)
- Delaware started making its own laws (1704)

Teacher Resource: Answers to Text Questions for Exploring the Delaware Colony

Chapter 1: First People in Delaware (p 10)

Who were the first people to live in the land now known as Delaware? [Native Americans p. 10]

What is the name of the main tribe of First Peoples living in Delaware? [Lenni Lenape p. 10]

What does “Lenni Lenape” mean? [original people p. 10]

Describe the kinds of settlements in which the Lenni Lenape lived. [villages of hundreds of people living in wigwams along the Delaware River p 10 G3, K-3]

What kinds of economic activities did the Lenni Lenape people engage in to satisfy their wants? [farming, hunting, fishing p 11 E1 K-3]

Describe the Lenni Lenapes attitude toward owning land. [they did not believe anyone could own land. Rather, they believed that a tribe could use land for a certain period of time. p 12]

How did the number of Lenni Lenapes living around Delaware change after Europeans arrived? [CHANGE OVER TIME dropped from 20,000 to 4,000 p 13]

Why did the number of Lenni Lenape change after the arrival of Europeans? [CAUSES-EFFECTS diseases like smallpox p 13]

CHAPTER 2: THE DUTCH (p. 14)

Who were the first Europeans to settle in Delaware? [Dutch p 16]

What name did the Dutch give to their settlement in Delaware and what does the name mean? [Zwaanendael Valley of the Swans - draw attention to the fact that the area is now called Lewes where the Zwaanendael museum is located p 16]

What caused the conflict between the Lenni Lenape and the Dutch? [CAUSES-EFFECTS Lenni Lenape took down a tin sign with the national symbols of the Netherlands and made pipes out of them p. 16]

Why did Lenni Lenape destroy the Dutch settlement called Zwaanendael? [CAUSES-EFFECTS some Lenni Lenape killed the chief who took the tin and his friends were furious p 17]

What effect did the destruction of Zwaanendael have on the Dutch? [CAUSES-EFFECTS they left and returned to the Netherlands p 17]

CHAPTER 3: New Sweden (p 18)

Which European people came to Delaware after the Dutch left, and in which year did they arrive?

What name did the Swedes give to the fort that they built? For whom was the fort named? [Fort Christina named after Sweden's Queen Christina - p 19 - another chance to help students understand why certain places in Delaware have their names e.g., Christina River, Christina School District]

Where did the Swedes set up their fort? [near present day Wilmington p 19]

Who became Governor of New Sweden in 1643? [Johan Printz - p 20 - another chance to help students understand why certain places in Delaware have their names e.g., "Governor Printz Boulevard" in New Castle County]

What actions did the new governor take to ensure good relations with the Lenni Lenape? [trade and "treated the Native Americans respectfully" p 20-21]

CHAPTER 4: CONFLICT OVER THE LAND

Why did the Swedes in Delaware attack the Dutch in 1651? [the Dutch built a Fort Casimir next to Fort Christina which meant that they could control the Delaware River p 22]

How did the English take over the land that is now Delaware? [without a shot being fired after they sent over 450 soldiers p 25]

CHAPTER 5: TIED TO PENNSYLVANIA

Which English colony did Delaware become part of in 1681? [Pennsylvania p 26]

Why did William Penn start the colony of Pennsylvania? [to give Quakers a place to practice their religion freely p 26]

Why did William Penn ask his friend for the three "Lower Counties" that became Delaware" [CAUSATION - so Pennsylvania could have access to the Delaware River and Bay for trade and transportation p 27]

The Quakers who controlled Pennsylvania believed that war, for any reason, was wrong. What effect did this belief have on the relations between the Quakers in Pennsylvania and the people who lived in the three "Lower Counties" that became Delaware? [people of three lower counties became less happy about being part of Pennsylvania because they needed protection from European competitors and pirates pp 28-29]

CHAPTER 6: Life in the Lower Counties

Famous people in Delaware History: explain why each of the following people are considered important in the history of Delaware.

- A. Thomas Willing [started the city of Wilmington, originally called Willington p 30-31]
- B. William and Elizabeth Shipley [helped Wilmington grow Wilmington's population and become a center of trade in the colonies p 31]

What were the names of the three "Lower Counties" of Pennsylvania that became Delaware? [New Castle, Kent, Sussex pp 32-33]

In what ways were Kent and Sussex Counties different from New Castle County?

- Kent and Sussex Counties - remained farm country, more enslaved people
- New Castle County - known for its towns and industries