

Lesson 18: Why does Delaware have such a strange shape?



Unit 5
Grade 4

Resource 2: 1796 Map of Delaware

How would you describe the shape of Delaware?

Why is the northern part of the state rounded like part of a circle and the rest shaped in straight lines?

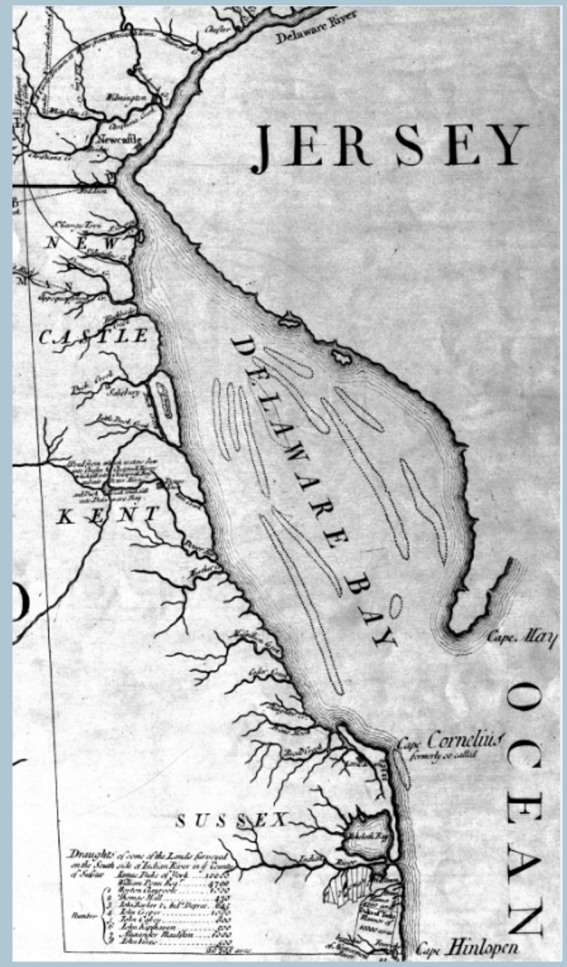


Resource 3: 1740 Map of Delaware

Let's see what looks familiar to us.

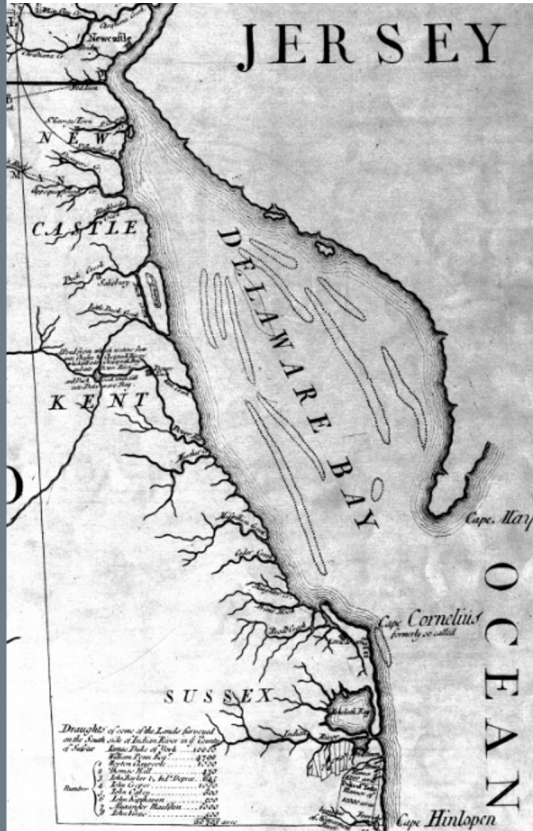
Can you locate Cape Henlopen on this map?

Is it located in the same location as the previous map? (1796 Map of Delaware?)

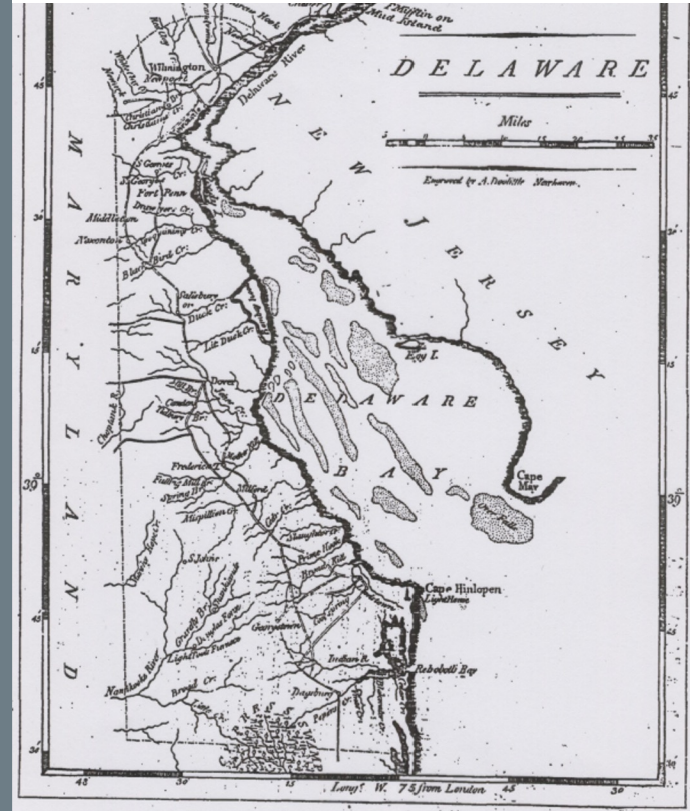


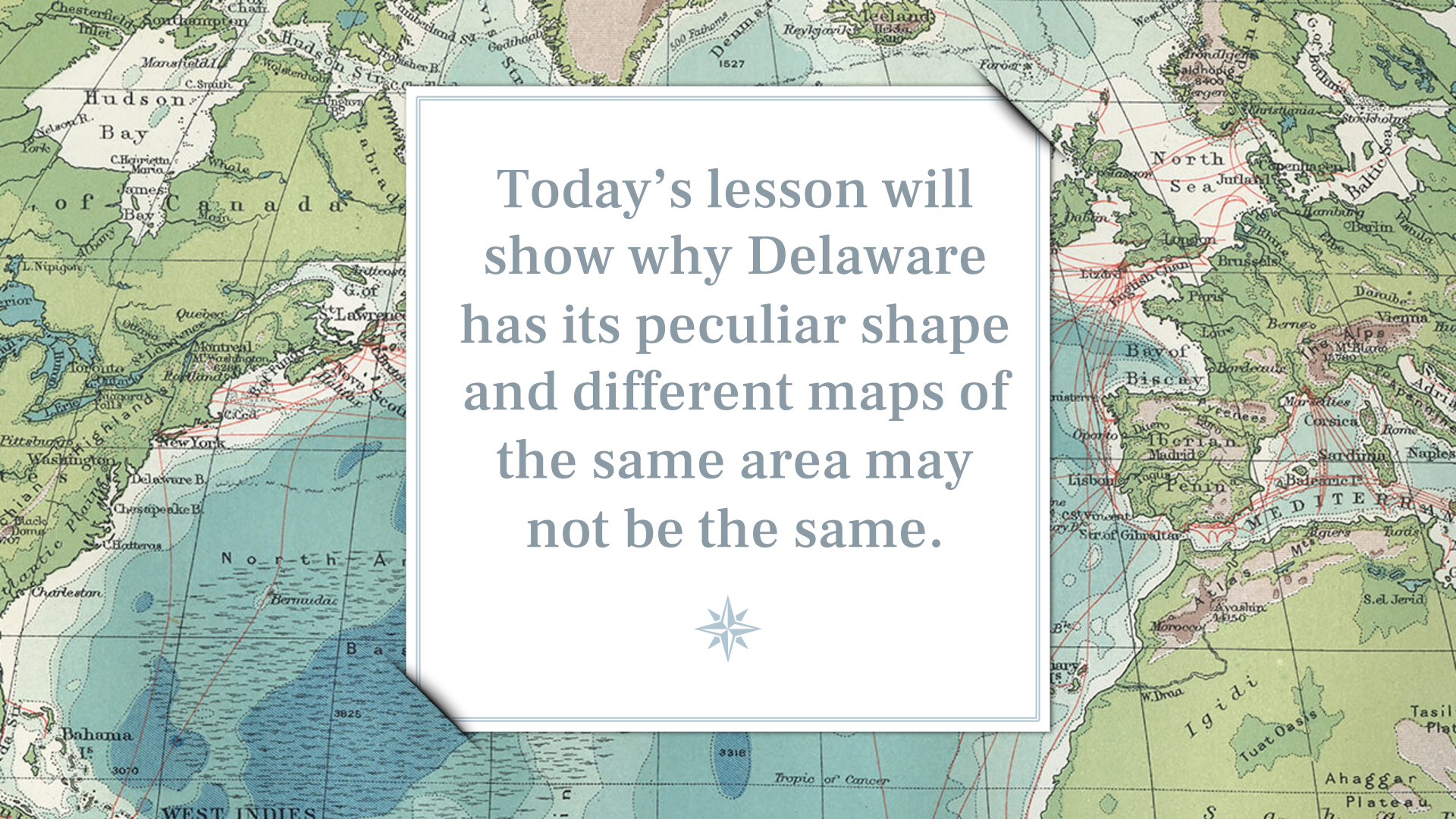
Why do you think it is located in two different positions?

1740 Map of Delaware



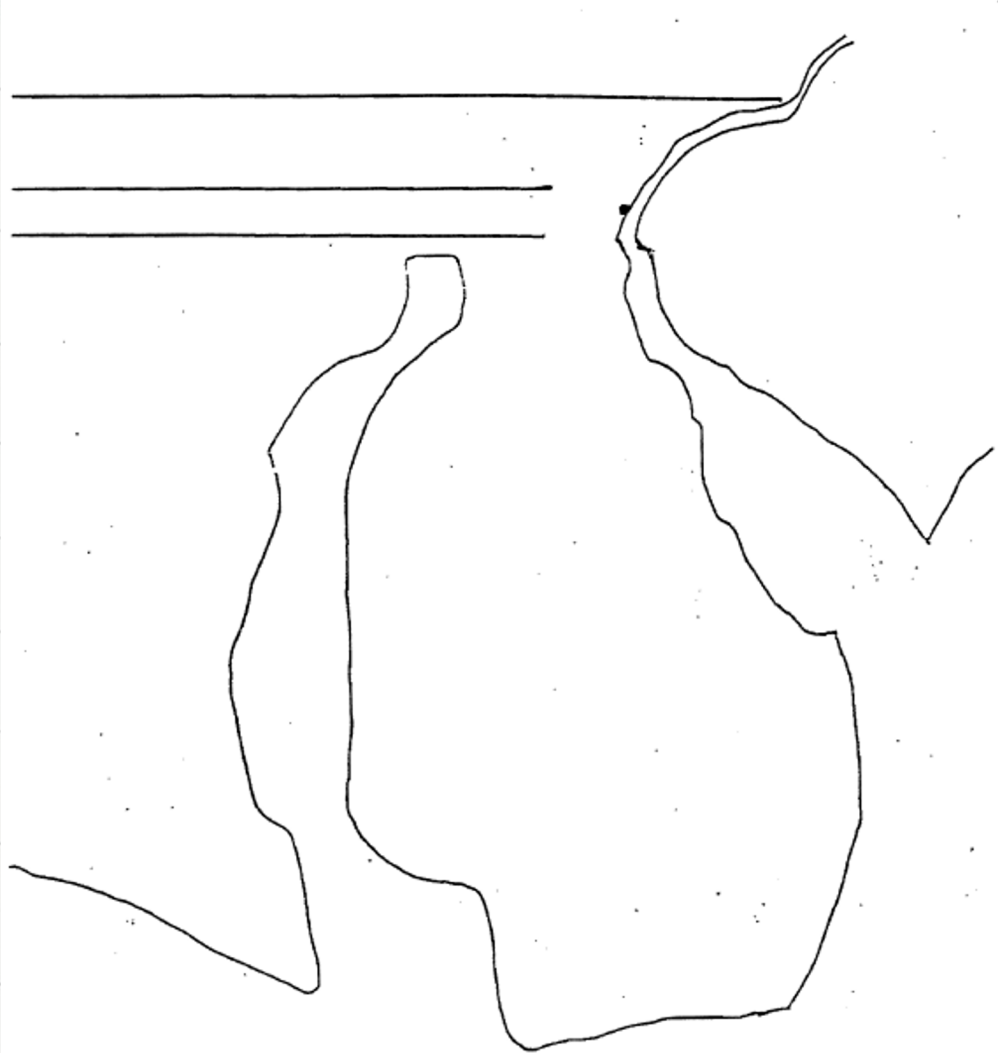
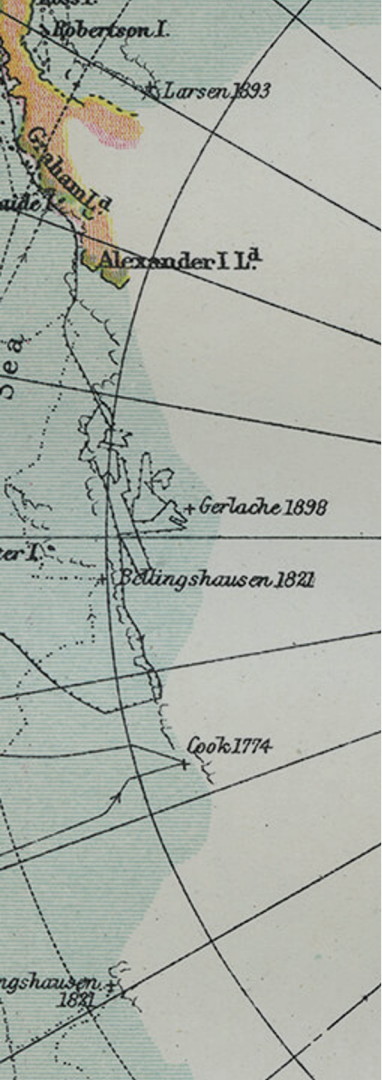
1796 Map of Delaware





Today's lesson will show why Delaware has its peculiar shape and different maps of the same area may not be the same.





Resource 1 - Floor Map Plan #1

Readers Theater



Why does Delaware have such a strange shape?

Resource 4: Reader's Theater

Why Does Delaware Have Such a Strange Shape?

Teacher: Welcome to our production of "Why Does Delaware Have Such a Strange Shape?" Before you is a map of the Delmarva Peninsula. It is called Delmarva because the peninsula - a body of land that is surrounded on three sides by water - includes land on which parts of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia (Del Mar Va) sit. The floor map also includes the Western Shore of Maryland, and the southeastern portion of Pennsylvania. During today's performance, we will show you why Delaware has such a strange shape. Our characters will wear name cards to make it easier for you to follow along.

I will now introduce all of the characters [introduce them].

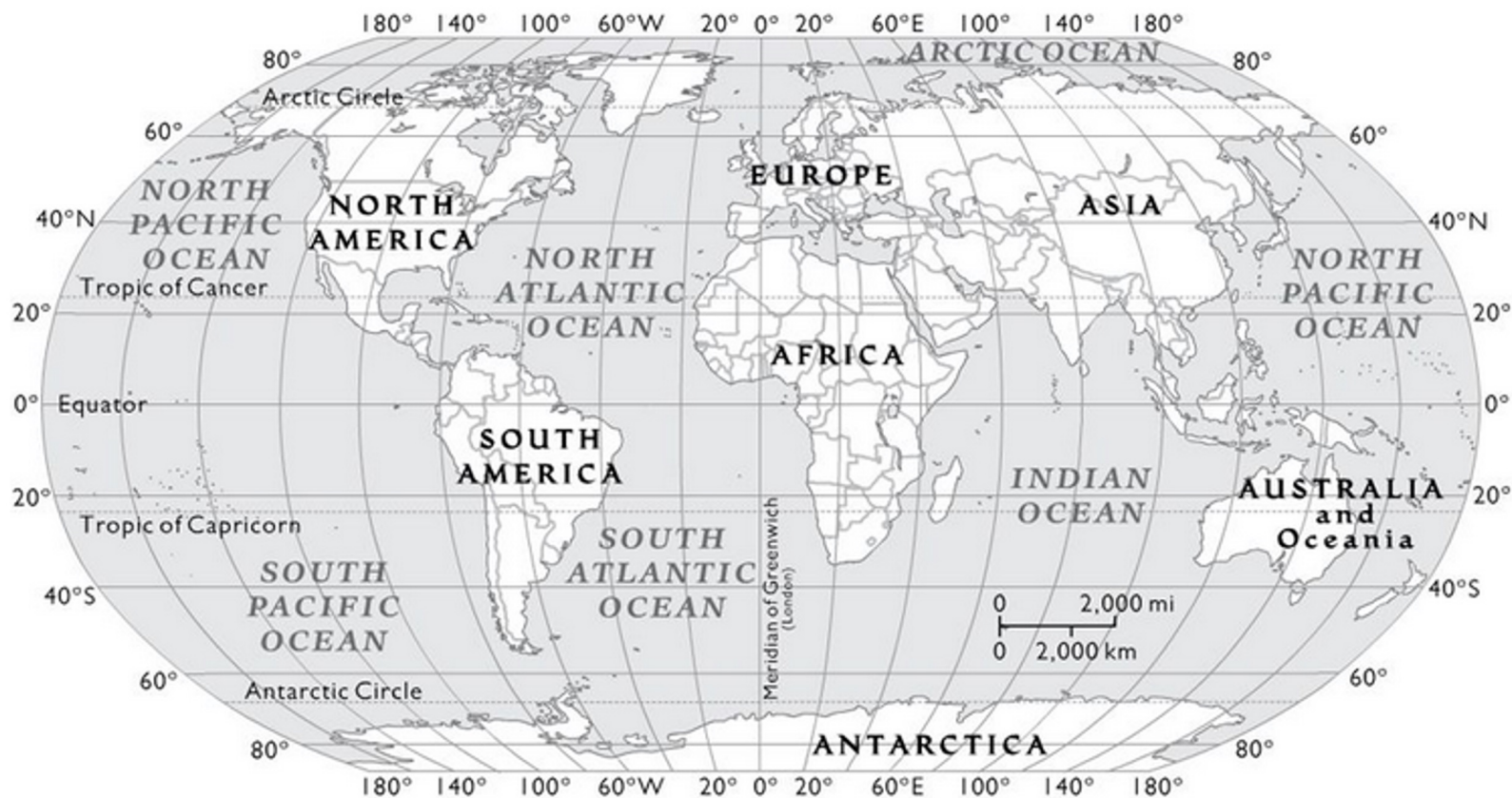
Narrator: After Columbus returned from his first trip to America in 1492 a number of European nations began to explore and claim parts of America for their own. These nations included England, Spain, France, Sweden, and The Netherlands (the Dutch).

[Pointer shows these countries on Resource 5 - World Map/slide 7] People from these European countries began to settle on land in America that was claimed by their country. [All characters begin in Europe] We should remember that this land was already home to many Native Americans

Dutch: [Moves to Lewes, Delaware] I represent the European nation of The Netherlands. In 1631, a group of my countrymen, known as the Dutch, sailed to the new world and created a settlement in the area of the present town of Lewes. We called our settlement Zwannendael because there were many swans in the area. Zwaanendael means "swan valley" in our old Dutch language. Our goal in coming to Delaware was to trade for furs with the local Indians and to hunt whales in the Delaware Bay for their oil. The furs were in demand in Europe and whale oil was used in lanterns. Later, we also established a settlement in the area where the town of New Castle is located. We called the settlement New Amstel.

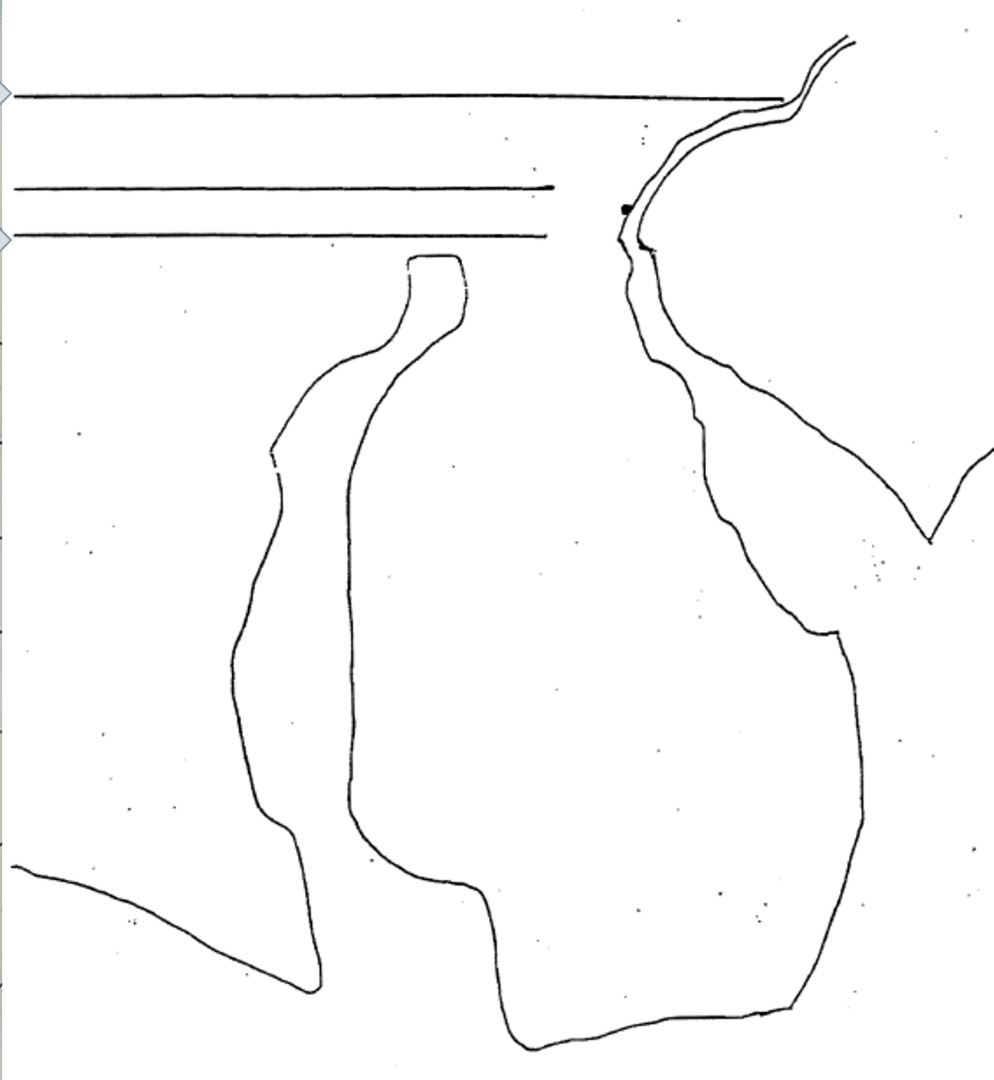
Swedes: [Moves to northern Delaware] I represent the country of Sweden. In 1637, a group of my countrymen sailed to America and settled in the area along the Christina River in northern Delaware. Along with a group of settlers from Finland we established Fort Christina at the present site of Wilmington.

Lord Baltimore: My name is Cecil Calvert. I am an English nobleman with the title of Lord Baltimore. In 1632, King Charles the First, the King of Great Britain, gave me a charter to an area of land in America. A charter is a written document that grants a person land with certain rights and duties. A charter is given by a government or ruler to a person, group of people, or company. In this case, the King gave me ownership of the land that is Maryland today and also the land that reaches to the Delaware Bay and is below the 40th degree of latitude. [Moves from Europe to Maryland with several Maryland settlers. One of the Maryland settlers should stay on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Lord Baltimore should walk toward the land that extends from Maryland to the Delaware Bay.]

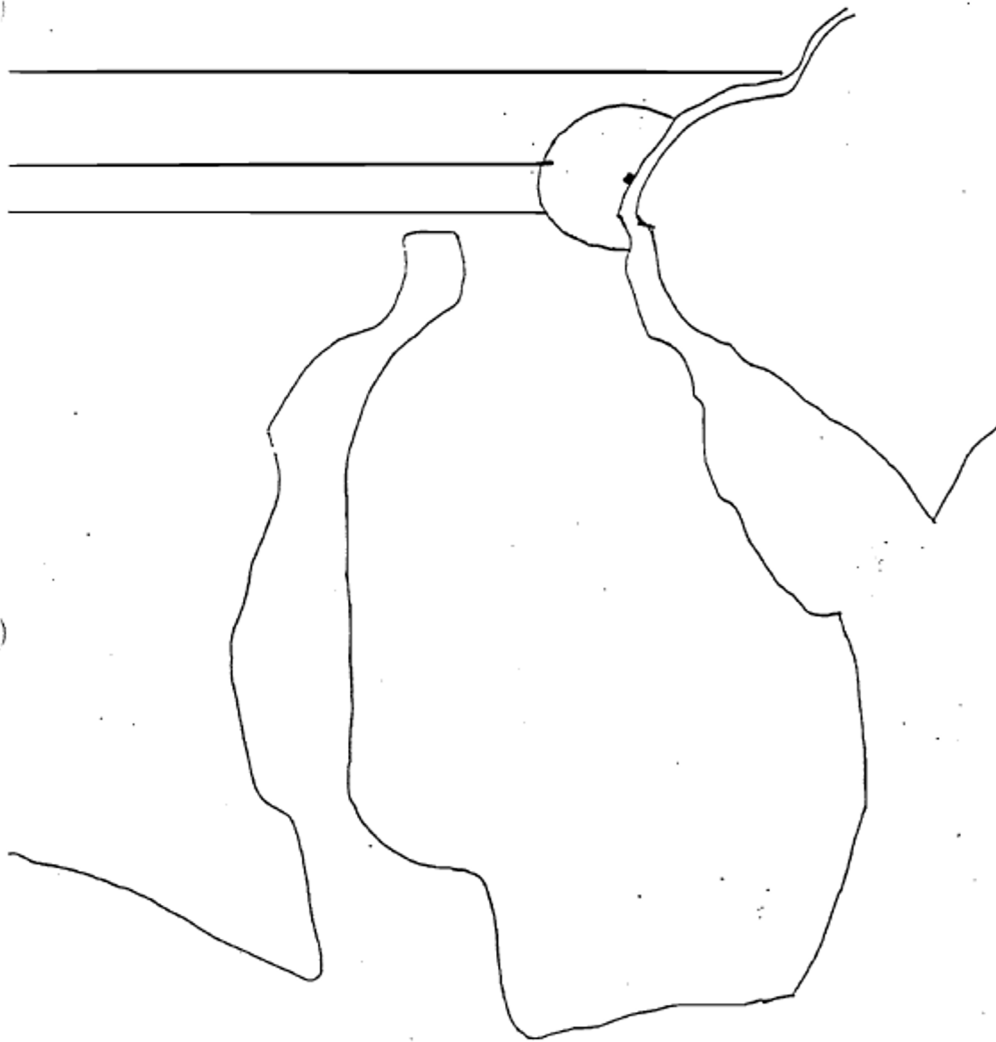
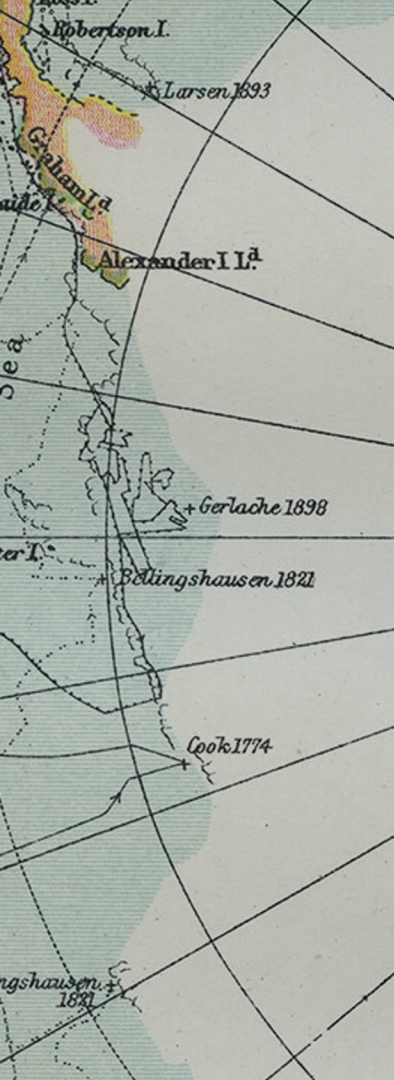


al 40th Degree of
Latitude!

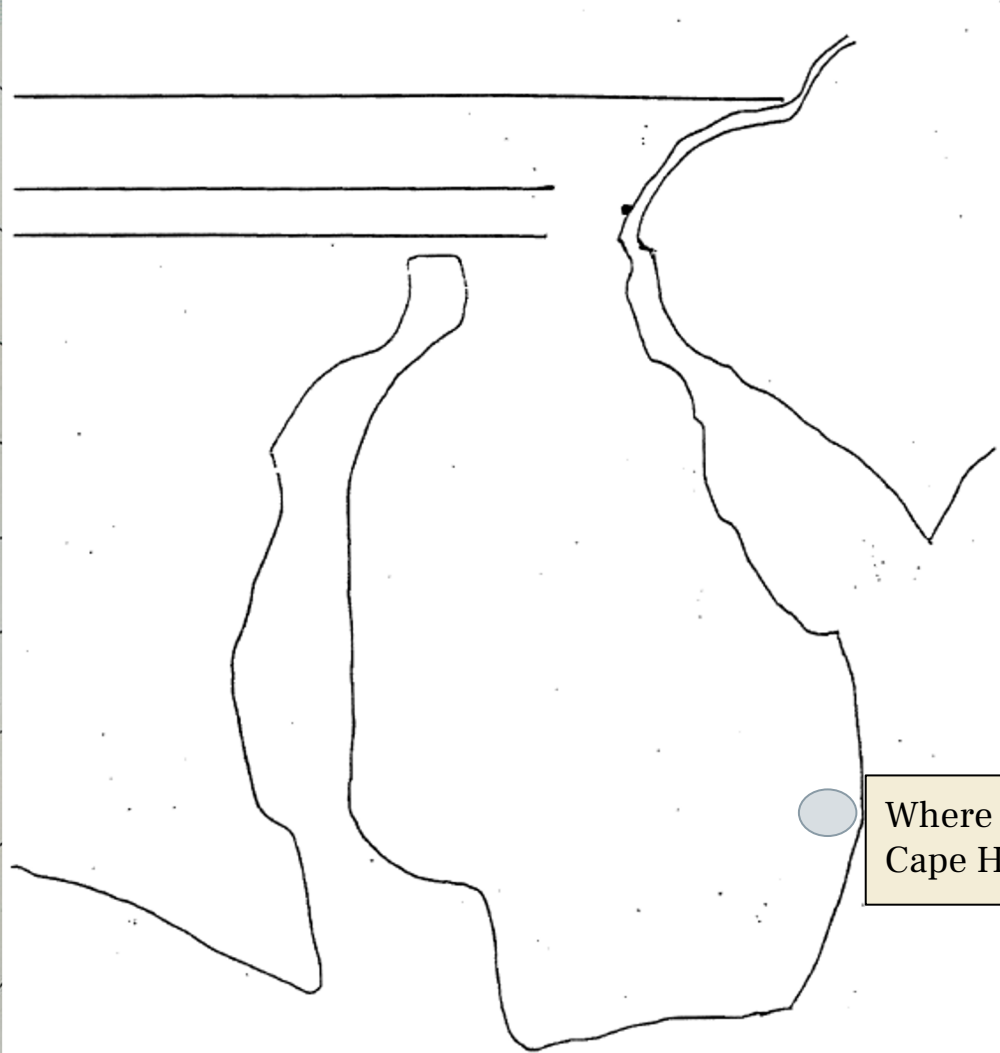
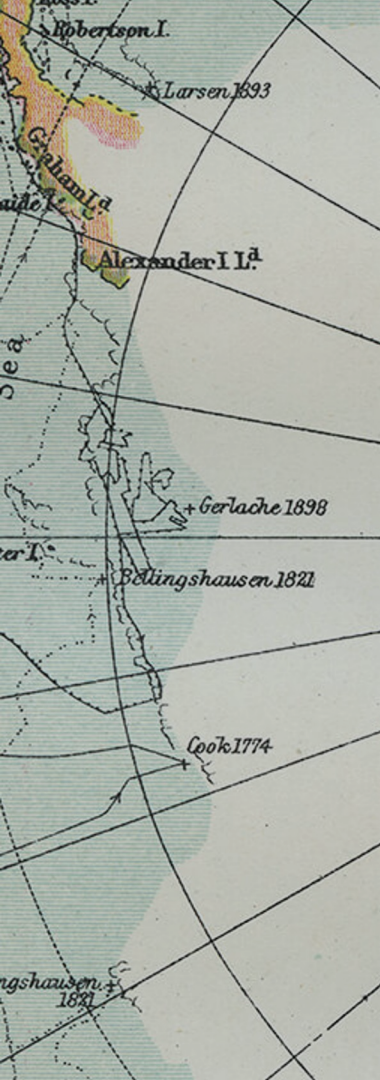
Baltimore's 40th
of North



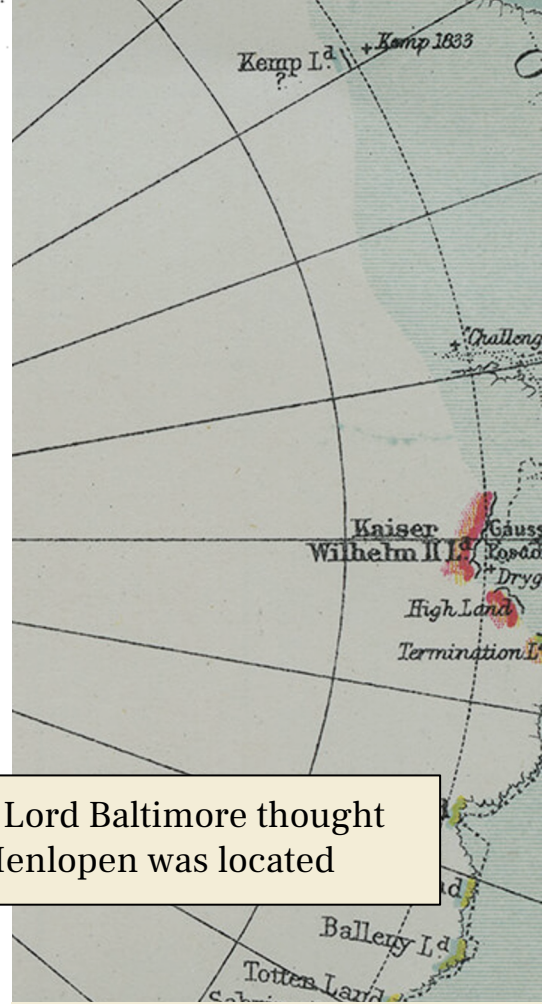
Resource 1 - Floor Map Plan #1

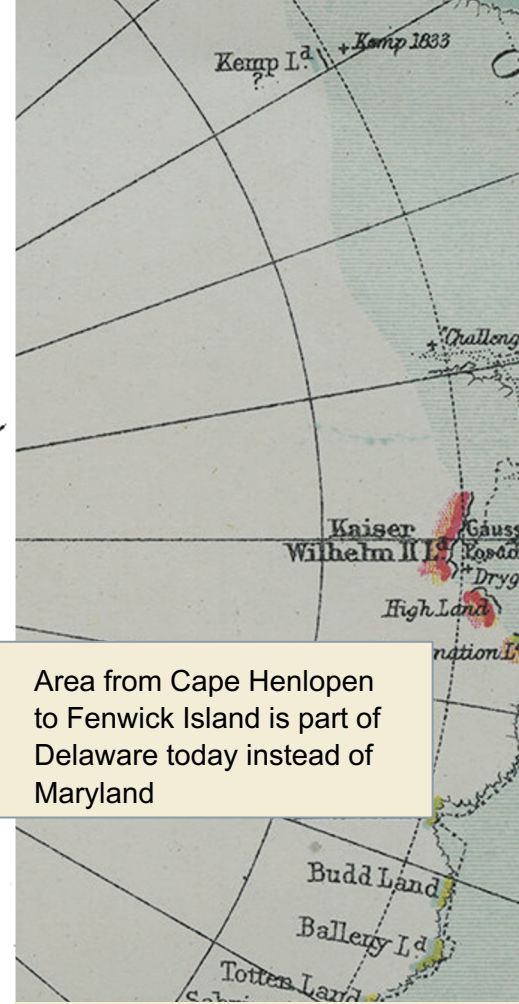
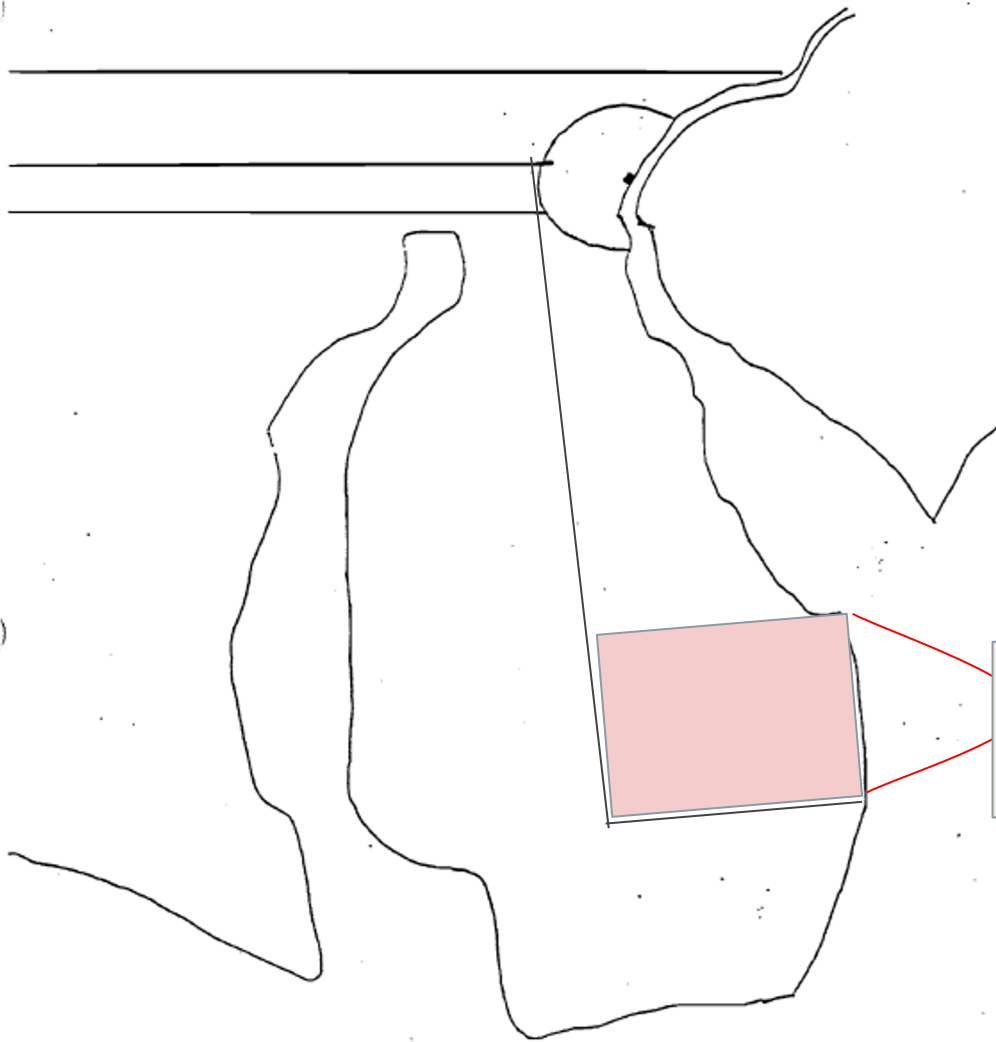
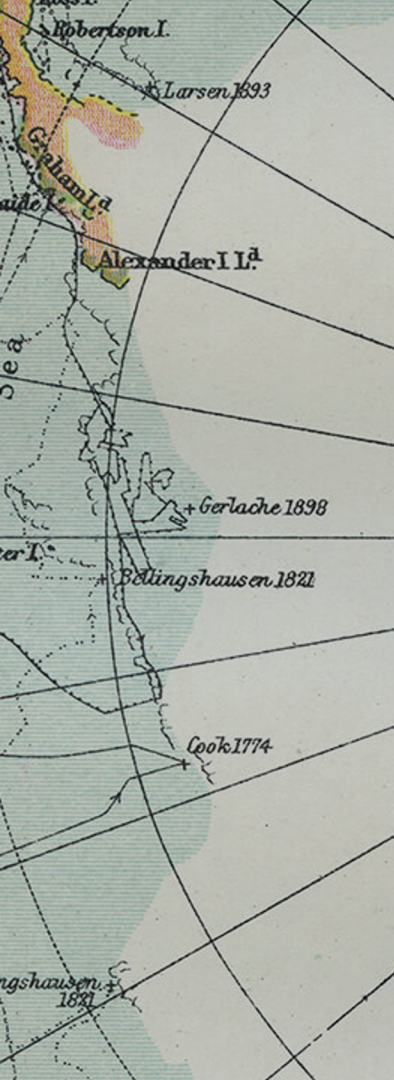


Resource 6 - Floor Map Plan #2



Where Lord Baltimore thought
Cape Henlopen was located





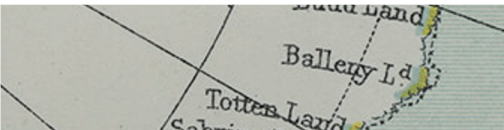
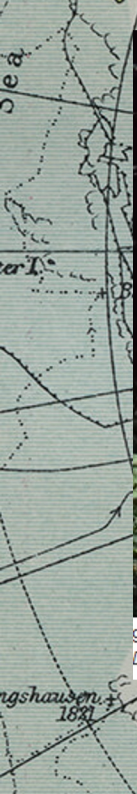
Area from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island is part of Delaware today instead of Maryland

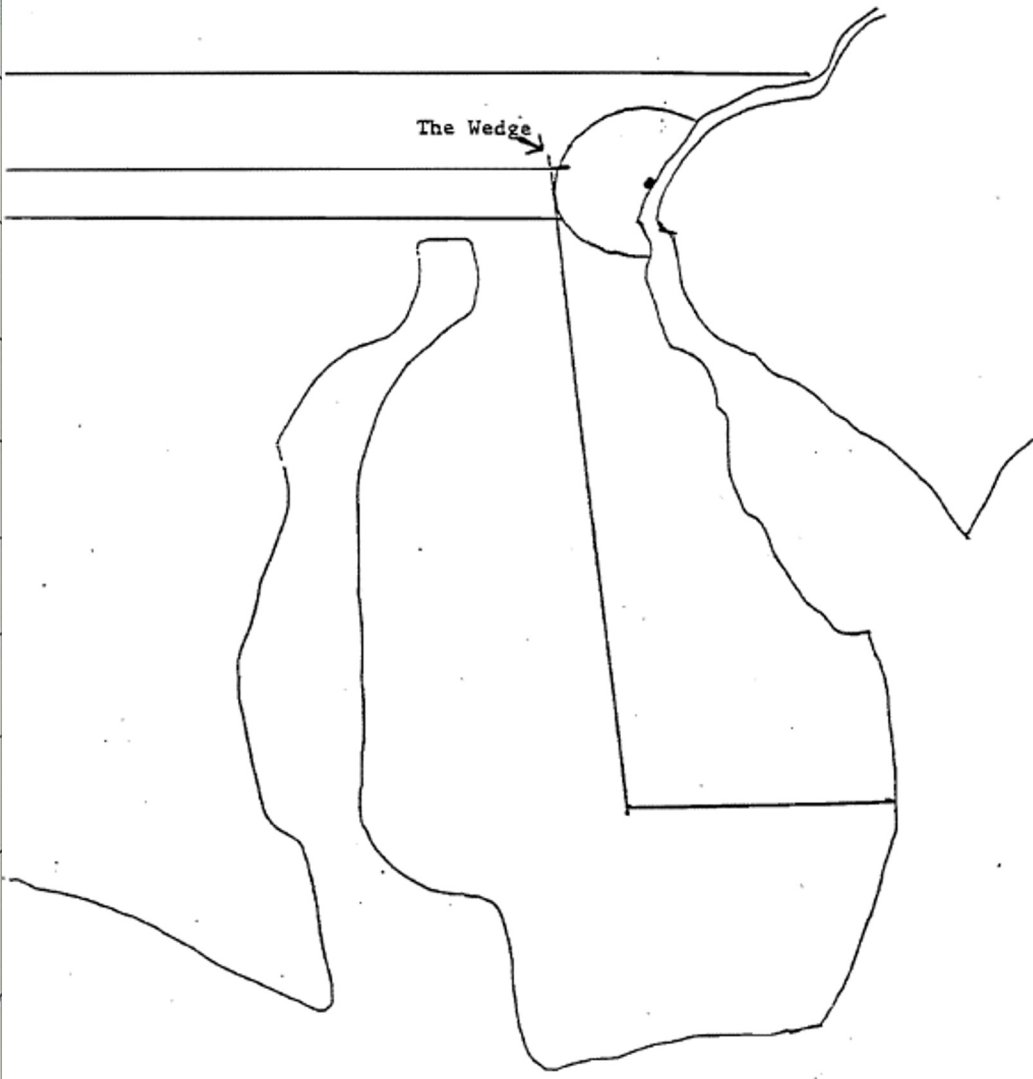
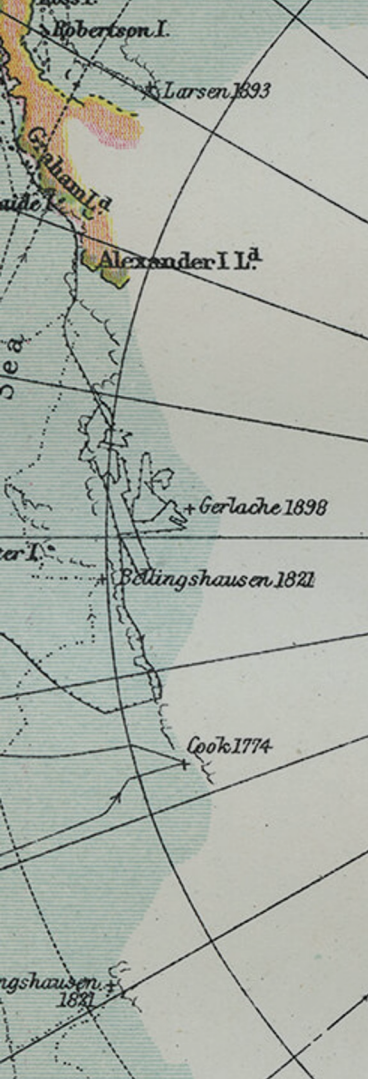


9015-023-000_D-M45_Tangent_Marydel_1984
Courtesy Of Delaware Public Archives

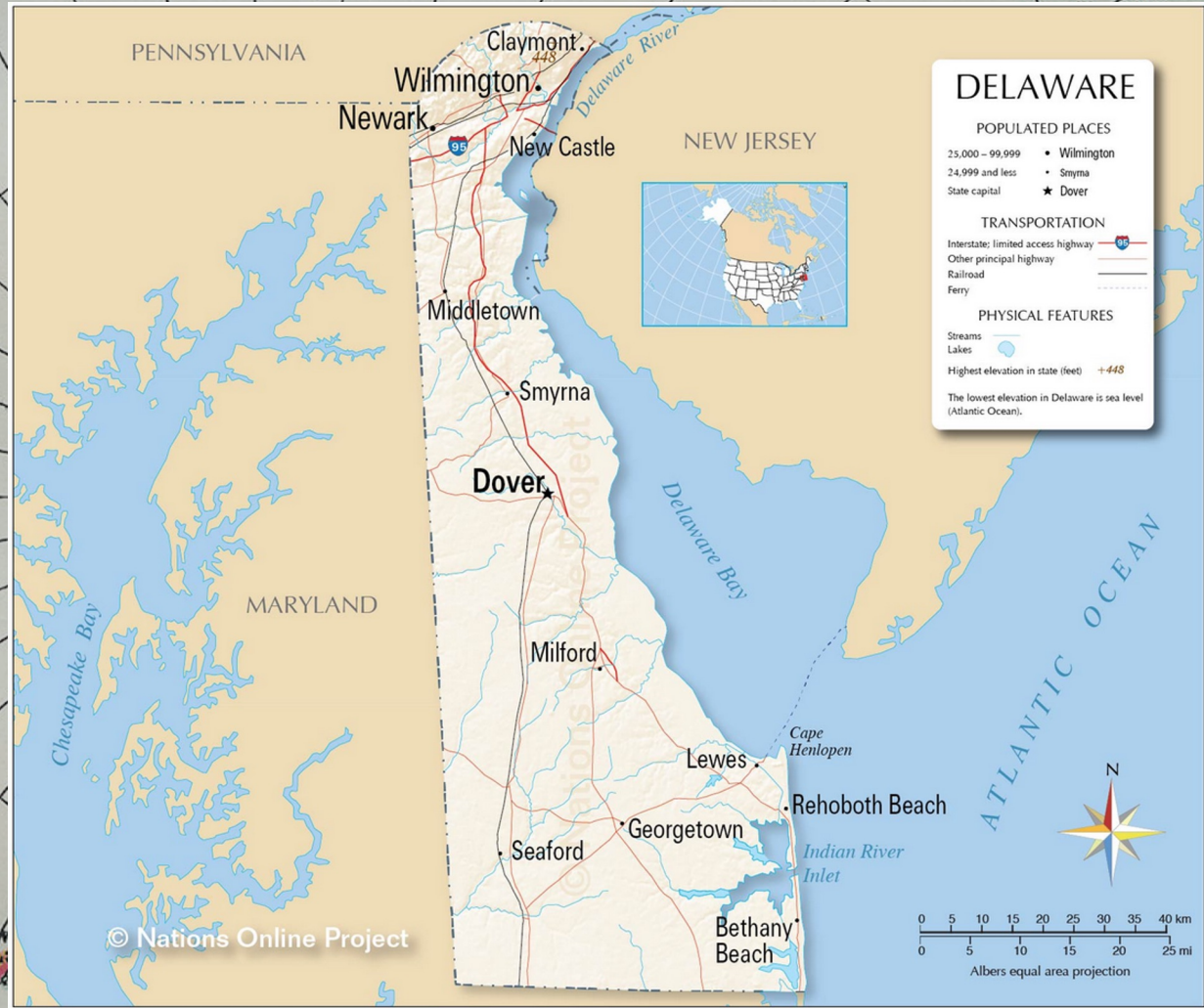


9015-023-000_D-M85_North_Line_1984 Courtesy Of
Delaware Public Archives





How would you describe the shape of Delaware?



Developing your mental map of Delaware

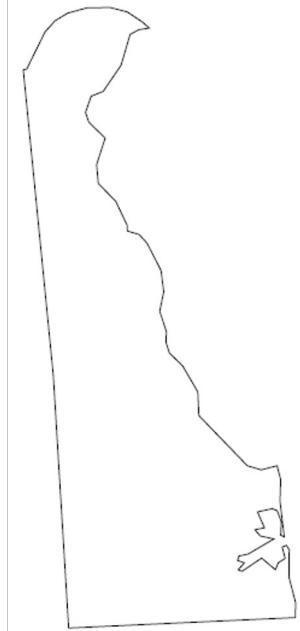


A mental map is picture of a location or place. This develops over time.

Let's develop your mental map of Delaware!

Stand up and make a muscle with your right hand and arm.

Show someone next to you!



Your Mental Map of Delaware



Draw your mental map of Delaware!

Try to include as many parts of Delaware as you can.

- Boundaries
- States
- Towns, cities
- Water ways

“

Show me what you know!

Resource 10: Checks for Understanding Name _____

1- Arrange the following groups of people in the order that they settled in Delaware:

- English
- Native Americans
- Swedes
- Dutch

Order of Settlement	People Who Settled
Settled first	
Settled second	
Settled third	
Settled last	

2- Why did the Dutch want to start a settlement in Zwaanendael?

- a. to catch swans
- b. to get furs and whales
- c. to pirate ships from other countries
- d. to help draw the boundaries of Delaware

3- Place a check next to any reasons mentioned in the play that explain why Lord Baltimore found it difficult for his people to move to the area that he claimed as his.

- there were very few roads
- there were pirates there
- people wanted to live near the Chesapeake Bay
- they were afraid of the Swedes

4- Circle the drawing below that most accurately shows the shape of Delaware.



5- Which of the following BEST explains why Delaware has such a strange shape?

- a. the people who drew the boundaries never came to Delaware
- b. the King of England needed to protect lands owned by Native Americans
- c. the people involved in an argument over the land all demanded some land
- d. the stone markers used to mark off boundaries were moved by the Duke of York