

DELAWARE (DE)

First State

Fast Facts

State Capital: Dover

Population: 783,600 (Census 2000)

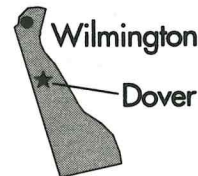
Land Area: 1,954 square miles

Year Admitted to the Union: 1787



State Flag

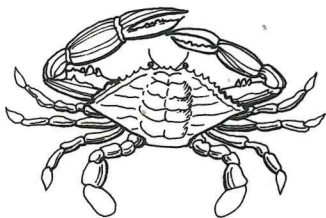
DELAWARE



As its nickname implies, Delaware was the first state to *ratify* (officially approve) the United States Constitution. Before the Constitution was written, Delaware's John Dickinson helped draft the Articles of the Confederation, which served as the first basic *charter* (contract) of government. Interestingly, Dickinson had refused to sign the Declaration of Independence earlier, but two signers—George Read and Thomas McKean—hailed from New Castle, Delaware.

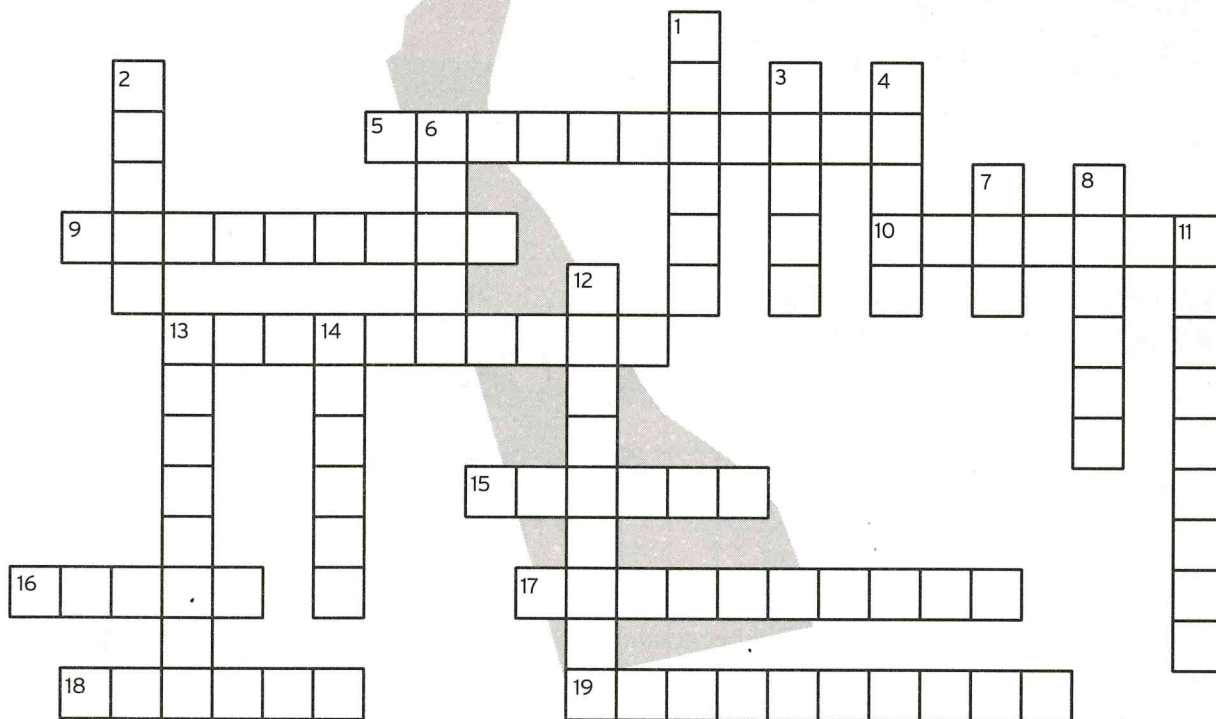
Delaware is famous not only for its historical connections but its business connections as well. Many of America's largest companies *incorporate* (form legal corporations) here mainly because of the state's easy business laws. Delaware also has no sales tax.

Delaware's association with business started early. Fleeing from the French Revolution, Eleuthere Irenee (E.I.) Du Pont came with his two sons to found a *utopia* (ideal society). Instead, seeing the need for gunpowder, the family started producing the first barrels of Du Pont explosives. Du Pont became a major chemical firm, developing and patenting materials including cellophane, nylon, and Teflon. Today the company is still the main supplier of conventional explosives to the U.S. government. In addition to their impact on Delaware's economy, the Du Ponts contributed much to the state's artistic culture. You can visit the family's Winterthur Museum, with its huge collection of decorative arts, and the Nemour Mansion and Gardens in Wilmington. Other famous houses in this city include the first log cabin. Wilmington is also a major market center because of its access to water transport.



Delaware has a long and beautiful coastline and some of the best beaches on the Atlantic. It is known for its delicious fresh seafood, especially crabs. The state also contains two national wildlife refuges, Primehook and Bombay Hook. The refuges shelter hundreds of thousands of snow geese and other migrating birds that populate the state every winter.

Delaware Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

5. Many large U.S. companies _____ in Delaware.
9. _____ was home to George Read, who signed the Declaration of Independence.
10. Delaware is known for its delicious _____.
13. _____, where the Nemour Mansion and Gardens is located, is a city in northern Delaware.
15. Delaware was the first state to _____ the U.S. Constitution.
16. Wilmington is the site of the first log _____.
17. If you want to see decorative arts, go to the _____ museum.
18. The Du Ponts fled from the _____ Revolution.
19. Today Du Pont supplies _____ to the U.S. government.

DOWN

1. A _____ is an ideal society.
2. Delaware's capital is _____.
3. Wilmington has good access to _____ transport.
4. Snow _____ migrate to Delaware every winter.
6. Du Pont developed several materials including _____.
7. Delaware has no sales _____.
8. E.I. Du Pont started out making gun _____.
11. John _____ helped write the Articles of the Confederation.
12. Delaware has a long and beautiful _____.
13. Primehook and Bombay Hook are _____ refuges in Delaware.
14. Thomas _____ signed the Declaration of Independence.