STUDENT

Activity Book



Delaware Symbols and General Assembly Facts

Welcome to Delaware's Legislative Hall !

The building you're standing in was built between 1931-1933, with the first General Assembly meeting here in 1933. Legislative Hall was added on to from 1965-1970, again in 1994, and another addition has been discussed in recent years. Why do we need all this room you might ask? Well, Legislative Hall holds both the House and Senate chambers, and offices for all our Senators and Representatives, as well as their staff. Additionally, the Division of Legislative Services, the Controller General's Offices, officers from the Capitol Police Department, and special offices for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor can also be found here. That is a lot of people working everyday to research, write, and pass laws that protect the people who live in or visit Delaware!

Fun Facts About Delaware

- The abbreviation for Delaware is DE
- The capital is Dover
- Our state was named after the Delaware Bay, which was named after Virginia's 1st Governor, Baron De La Warr
- Delaware was the first to sign the Constitution and join the United States
- We are the second smallest state, covering only 1,982 square miles
- Our neighbors are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and the Atlantic Ocean
- Delaware has three counties; New Castle County, Kent County, and Sussex County
- The city with the most people living in it is Wilmington
- The largest county by area is Sussex, which is home to our famous beaches
- George Washington crossed the Delaware River during the American Revolutionary War on December 25-26, 1776









THE STATE SEAL

The state seal was first adopted on January 17, 1777, and contains the coat of arms. It also bears the inscription around it "Great Seal of the State of Delaware." The following symbols appear on the seal:

The wheat sheaf is adapted from the Sussex County seal and signifies the agricultural vitality of Delaware.

The ship is a symbol of New Castle County's ship building industry and Delaware's extensive coastal commerce.

The corn is taken from the Kent County seal and also symbolizes the agricultural basis of Delaware's economy.

The farmer with the hoe represents the central role of farming to the state.

The militiaman with a musket recognizes the crucial role of the citizen-soldier to the maintenance of American liberties.

The ox represents the importance of animal cultivation to the state economy.

The water (above the ox) stands for the Delaware River, the mainstay of the state's commerce and transportation.

The motto "Liberty and Independence" was approved in 1847.

The dates: 1704, the year that Delaware established its General Assembly; 1776, the year that our independence from Great Britain was declared; and 1787, the year that Delaware became "the First State" by being the first state to ratify the United States Constitution.



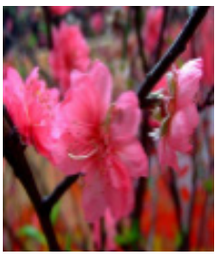
State Bird: Blue Hen

Adopted as the state bird on April 14, 1939.
During the Revolutionary War, the Delaware Continentals were known by their fellow fighters as "the Blue Hens' Chicks" in honor of the distinctive bluish fighting hens, which some of the men carried on their travels.

State Tree: American Holly

Adopted as the state tree on May 1, 1939.
The American Holly is regarded as one of Delaware's most important forest trees. In Delaware, the tree can reach a maximum of 60 feet in height.





State Flower: Peach Blossom

Adopted as the state flower of Delaware on May 9, 1895.
Delaware had the reputation as the "Peach State" at the time. Peach trees are native to China and have light pink flowers that bloom every spring, followed by fuzzy fruits that ripen by mid-summer.

Delaware State Flag



Adopted on July 24, 1913, the state flag has a background of colonial blue surrounding a diamond of buff color in which the coat of arms of the State of Delaware is placed. Below the diamond is the date "December 7, 1787," the day on which Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution making Delaware the first state in the Union, and according it the first position in such national events as presidential inaugurations. According to members of the original commission established to design the flag, the shades of buff and colonial blue, the official state colors, represent those of the uniform of General George Washington as shown on a specific plate from an official U.S. Army publication.

State Fish: Weakfish

Adopted as the state fish in 1981.
The weakfish can grow to 3 feet in length and weigh over 19 pounds. It was made the state fish in recognition of its recreational and economic contributions to the State of Delaware and its value as a game and food fish.





State Bug: Lady Bug

Adopted as the state bug on April 25, 1974.
Some ladybugs have no spots and others have up to 20 spots. Ladybugs are very helpful to a garden as they eat aphids and mites - bugs that are harmful to plants.

State Butterfly: Tiger Swallowtail

Adopted as the state butterfly on June 10, 1999.
The tiger swallowtail, a large, yellow, black-stripedbutterfly, is indigenous to Delaware and can be seen indeciduous woods, along streams, rivers, and wooded swamps, and in towns and cities throughout Delaware.



State Dessert: Peach Pie



Adopted as the state dessert on July 30, 2009.
Peach farming is an important part of Delaware's agricultural heritage, as the peach was introduced to Delaware in Colonial times and expanded as an industry in the nineteenth century. Delaware was the country's leading producer of peaches for part of the nineteenth century, at its peak, shipping 6 million baskets to market in 1875.



State Marine Animal: Horseshoe Crab

Adopted as the state marine animal on June 25, 2002.
These invertebrates contain a compound, limulus amebocyte lysate (LAL), that is used to detect bacterial poisons in certain medications, vaccines, and medical devices. Chitin, a natural polymer found in the horseshoe crab's shell, is used to make bandages. Delaware Bay is the home to more horseshoe crabs than any other place in the world.

State Beverage: Milk



Adopted as the state beverage on June 3, 1983.
Each dairy cow produces about 6.5 gallons of milk per day. Less than half of this milk is consumed as a beverage; the rest is used for butter, cheese, ice cream, milk powder, and other processed products.



State Fruit: Strawberry

Adopted as the state fruit on May 13, 2010.
Delaware strawberries are bred for taste, not to be big or last a long time on a store shelf.

State Wildlife Animal: Grey Fox



Adopted as the state wildlife animal on June 10, 2010. The grey fox is believed to be between 7 and 10 million years old, and is indigenous to Delaware. It is a swift and powerful animal capable of running up to 28 miles per hours and the only member of the canid family which is able to climb trees.



State Shell: Channeled Whelk

Adopted as the state shell on May 6, 2014.
The channeled whelk is a beautiful sea creature integral to the ecology and economy of the State of Delaware.

State Sport: Bicycling

Adopted as the state sport on June 14, 2014.
Delaware was ranked the 5th most bicycle friendly state in the United States in 2013. The U.S. Cycling Association named the Wilmington Grand Prix a Tier 1 race, making it one of the top 10 criterion races in the country.



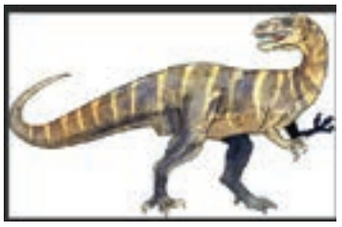


State Tall Ship: Kalmar Nyckel

Adopted as the state tall ship on September 9, 2016. The original ship Kalmar Nyckel sailed from Sweden and landed at the Rocks, now Fort Christina Historic Park, in 1638. The ship carried Peter Minuit and his original crew, the first permanent European settlers in the Delaware Valley to found the trading post of New Sweden, now Wilmington, Delaware. The Kalmar Nyckel made four documented round-trip crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, more than any other ship of the era.

State Dinosaur: Dryptosauridae

Adopted as the state dinosaur on October 26, 2022.
Dryptosauridae bones have been found in the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. The Dryptosauridae was bird-like, but was also a predator and is related to Tyrannosaurus rex. It relied on speed to escape from predators and was incredibly fast. The Dryptosauridae went to the ancient shoreline, but feasted on land like Delaware's shore birds do now.





State Sea Turtle: Loggerhead

Adopted as the state sea turtle on July 27, 2022.
Sea turtles play a vital role in the health of the world's oceans, from helping coral reef ecosystems stay healthy to transporting nutrients from the ocean to beaches and coastal dunes. The Loggerhead Turtle is the most common sea turtle in Delaware but can also be found worldwide. On average, it weighs between 155 to 375 pounds and can grow up to 3.5 feet long. They prefer to feed in coastal bays and estuaries, and in shallow water along the continental shelves of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. The Loggerhead turtle has been on earth for 110 million years; but is now listed as threatened or endangered, due to the loss of habitat, humans disturbing their nests, and pollution, like balloons.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Delaware House of Representatives consists of 41 members who serve 2-year terms. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House. The Speaker is elected by a majority of the members of the House for a 2-year term. The Speaker's duties include maintaining order in the House and appointing members to the House standing committees. The Chief Clerk of the House is responsible for the administrative duties of the House and is elected by the members of the House.

THE SENATE



The Delaware State Senate is composed of 21 members who serve 4-year terms. The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the Senate and is elected in a statewide election every 4 years. The main duty of the Lieutenant Governor is to preside over session and maintain order in the Senate. Committee appointments in the Senate are made by the President Pro Tempore, who is elected by a majority of the members of the Senate. If the Lieutenant Governor is absent the President Pro Tempore carries out the duties of the presiding officer. The Secretary of the Senate is responsible for the administrative duties of the Senate and is elected by the members of the Senate.

Kids Maki

Did you know that kids can help create laws too! There have been many times throughout Delaware history that students have been the driving force behind new legislation. They did the research, gathered public support, teamed up with a senator or representative, and presented their idea at Legislative Hall!

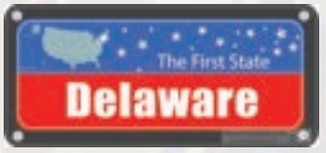
April 25, 1974

House Bill 667, proposed by Mrs. Brown-Rust's second grade class at Lulu M. Ross Elementary, asked that the ladybug be named the Delaware State Bug.



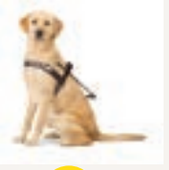
May 23, 2002

House Bill 395, proposed by Mrs. O'Malley's Class at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, asked for Delaware's Nickname to be "The First State".



September 17, 2018

After seeing a video of a person and their service dog being wrongly treated, four students from Newark Charter School appealed for change. House Bill 354 updated and corrected Delaware's laws about Service Animals.



Maybe you have the

ng History !

October 26, 2022

House Bill 390, requesting that the Dryptosauridae be recognized as the state dinosaur. This bill was researched and presented by students from Shue-Medill Middle School.



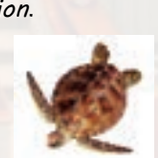






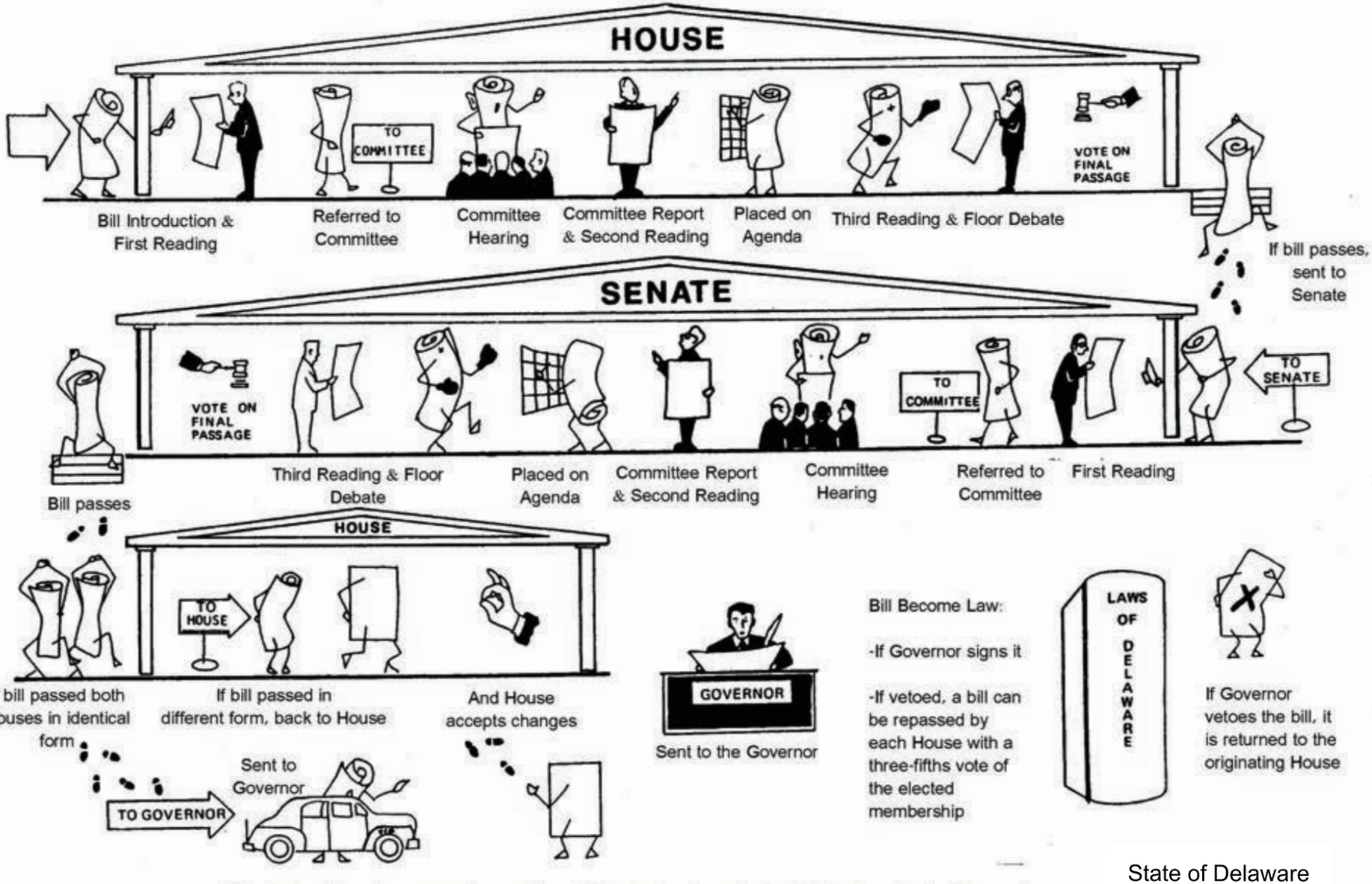
July 27, 2022

Senate Bill 303 asked for the Loggerhead Turtle to be designated as the State Sea Turtle. This bill was started by the MERR Institute, but thousands of Delaware students of all ages participated in the proposal of this legislation.



next great idea !

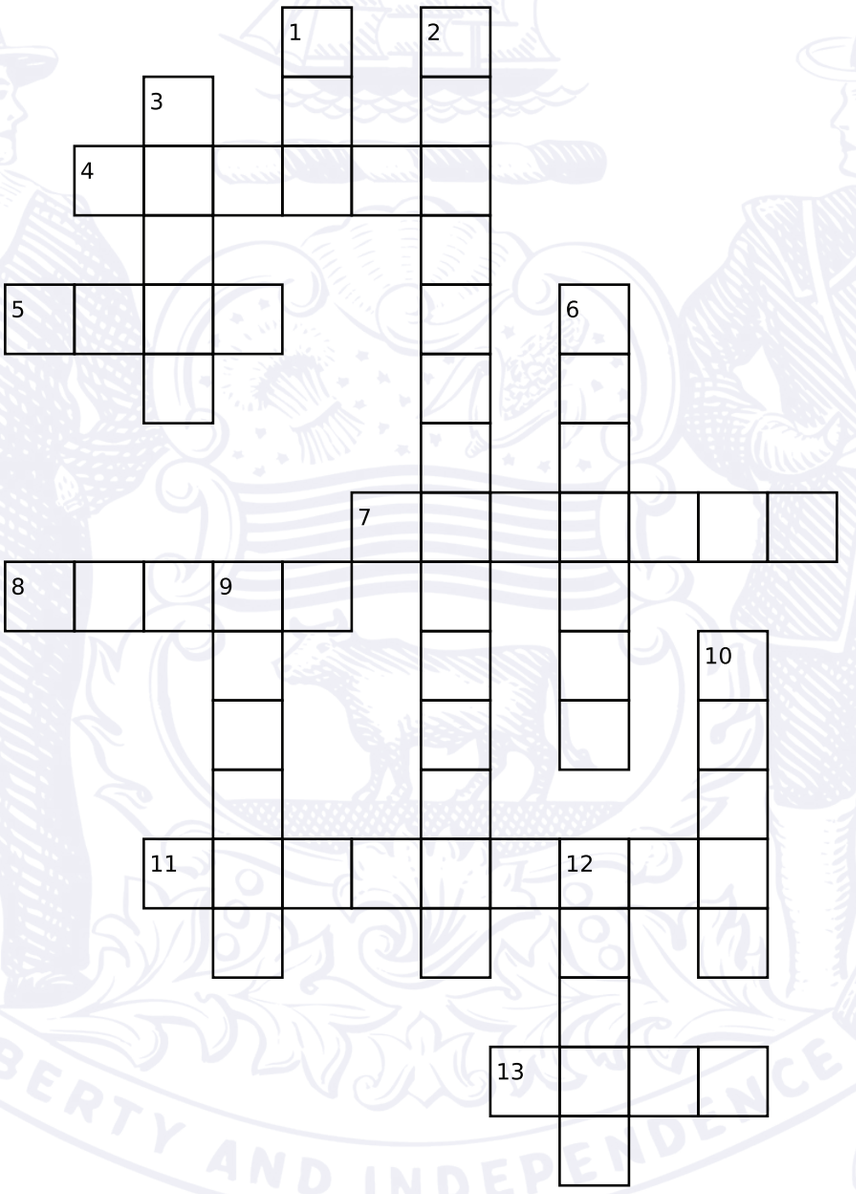
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



This chart outlines the process for enacting a bill by tracing the path of a bill introduced in the House of Representatives. A bill introduced in the Senate would follow the same procedure except the Senate and House action would be reversed.

State of Delaware
Division of Legislative Services

Do you know Delaware?



Down:

1. The state bird is the blue _____.
2. The state dinosaur is the _____.
3. The state tree is the American _____.
6. The state wildlife animal is the _____.
9. Tourists flock to the beaches in _____ County.
10. The Capital of Delaware is _____.
12. Delaware has _____ counties.

Across:

4. Caesar _____ signed the Declaration of Independence
5. The state beverage is _____.
7. The Delaware state bug is the ____.
8. Delaware was the ____ state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
11. The most northern county is _____.
13. The Capital is in _____ County

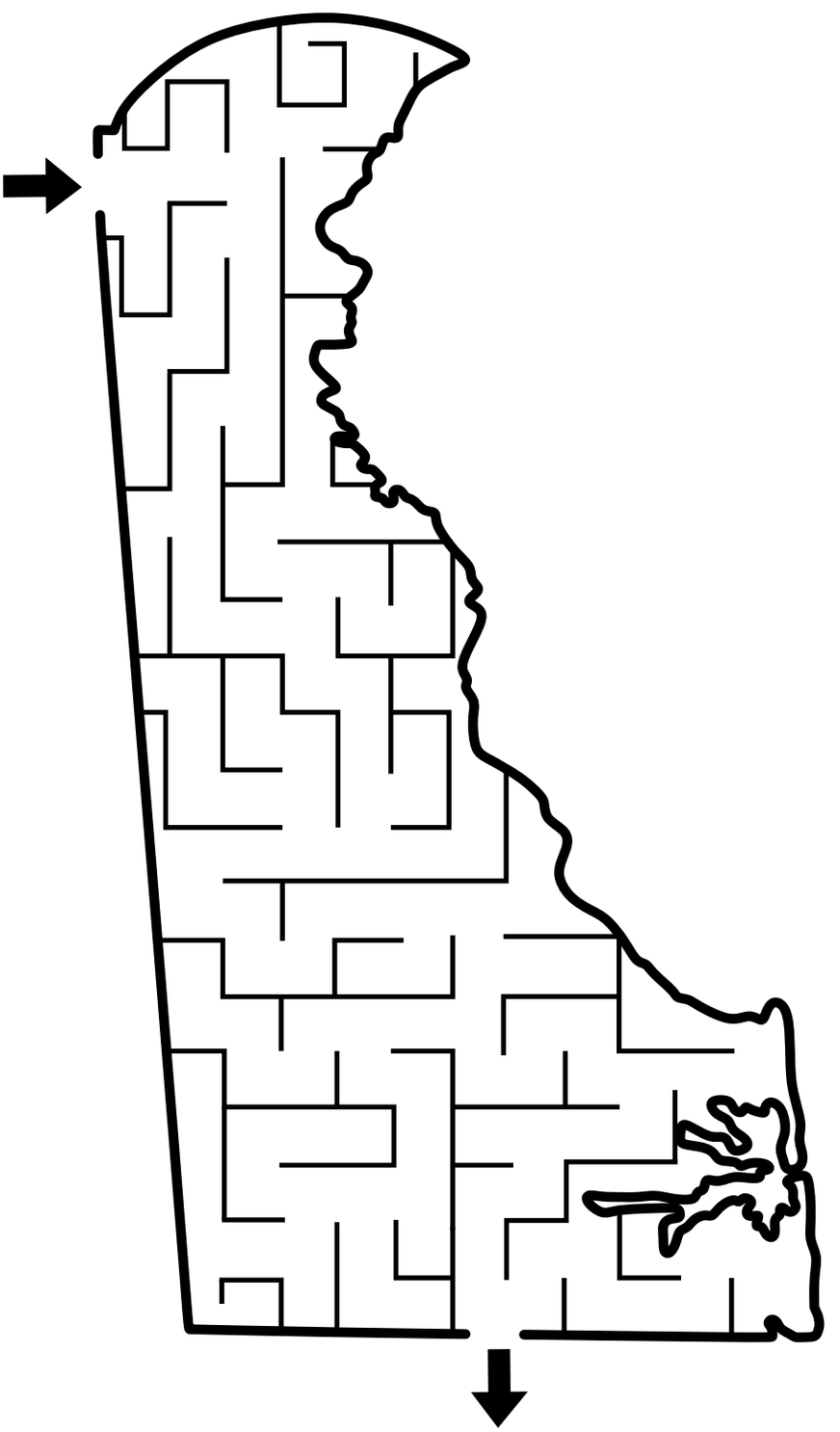
Fill In The Blank

Fill in the blank with its correct answer from the word bank.

A. General Assembly	B. 1933	C. Law	D. 2	E. Chief Clerk	F. 21
G. Secretary of the Senate	H. 41	I. Pro Tempore	J. Speaker		

1. The House of Representatives has _____members.
2. The Senate has _____ members.
3. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is called the_____.
4. The President of the Senate is the_____.
5. Another name for the State Legislature is the _____.
6. The person in charge of the administrative duties in the House is the _____.
7. When a bill is passed by the General Assembly and is signed by the Governor it becomes a _____.
8. The General Assembly first met in its current location in _____.
9. Members of the House are elected for _____ years.
10. The person in charge of the administrative duties in the Senate is the _____.

Delaware Maze



K A L M A R N Y C K E L M V E Y E K O E

O S W E E T G O L D E N R O D Z X S K Z

D H C E N F Z G O E E V X N X N M S O X

I Q O A K W L X T L J B I E Y Y O T B O

A A X D U L M V X A P L J H F S S R K F

M C V I F Y E E Y H B I Y E W Y S A I Y

O C N R G I O H I X J A G U A U O W B E

N W C U U A E G W B A T A L A K L B B R

D H S A B N R X D D E W A B L R B E A G

S S B S Y G G P G W E O I I X T H R R V

T I W O D V C E P P R L M L M H C R C O

A F P T A C E A Q A R L E A Z R A Y E S

T K G P L K A C F C X A N N I A E Q O X

E A Q Y V P J H A N Z W X E N V P M H L

E E F R M F Z P C X T S T N X A B A S T

Y W Y D H G P I W I Z R K H Y Y H O E V

D X P Q X E S E H V X E U Y O Y K C S M

I G N I L C Y C I B A G X E Y B T K R Z

E H T Y L L O H N A C I R E M A C P O U

H D D Y R L Y T T U S T O N E F L Y H O

American Holly
Bicycling
Blue Hen
Channeled Whelk
Diamond State
Dryptosauridae
Grey Fox
Horseshoe Crab
Kalmar Nyckel
Tiger Swallowtail
Weakfish
Ladybug
Milk
Peach Blossom
Peach Pie
Stonefly
Strawberry
Sweet Goldenrod

IMAGES

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City of Wilmington: image retrieved from newcybersenior.com

Washington Crossing the Delaware: image retrieved from Free-Images.com

Puzzle Answers

Do You Know Delaware?

1. HEN
2. DRYPTOSAURIDAE
3. HOLLY
4. RODNEY
5. MILK
6. GREY FOX
7. LADYBUG
8. FIRST
9. SUSSEX
10. DOVER
11. NEW CASTLE
12. THREE
13. KENT

Fill In The Blank

1. H
2. F
3. J
4. I
5. A
6. E
7. C
8. B
9. D
10. G

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DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES