Delaware's borders are made of both physical features and artificial lines

Find the curved border (a segment of the circle).
Find the straight borders.
Find the squiggly border.

1. Which of Delaware's borders are based on physical features? Which are artificial?
2. Name the bodies of water that border Delaware.
3. Name the three states that are Delaware’s neighbors.

Find Delaware's three counties (Each is a different color on the map)

4. Are the county borders based on physical features, artificial lines, or a combination of the two? Why do you think the borders between counties were agreed upon?

Continued
FYI: Delaware's artificial borders are the results of complicated border disputes with its neighbors, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Curved line:
Its existence dates from a deed to William Penn from the Duke of York on August 24, 1682, which granted Penn all the lands west of the Delaware River within a 12 mile compass circle beginning at the courthouse in New Castle. The circle was first laid out by surveyors Isaac Taylor and Thomas Pierson in 1701.

Straight lines:
The western border is based on surveys by Englishmen Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, completed in 1765. The surveyors also drew the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland, solving a longstanding border dispute between those two states. These border lines are known as the Mason-Dixon Line.

Delaware’s southern border was drawn by two Maryland and two Pennsylvania surveyors in 1751 and confirmed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in the 1760s.

Squiggly line:
Delaware’s eastern border was determined by nature: the Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and Atlantic Ocean. Ordinarily when water separates states, the border is the mid-line of the body of water. But Delaware’s curved border actually extends into the Delaware River, giving Delaware complete control of the Delaware River within the 12 mile circle (see Curved line above). South of the circle, the border between Delaware and New Jersey is the mid-line of the Delaware River or Bay.

The Wedge:
Delaware is about one square mile bigger today than it was in 1838 when this map was published! This small addition, known as the wedge, is bordered by an extension of the east-west Mason-Dixon Line, an extension of the north-south Mason-Dixon Line, and a portion of the Delaware 12-mile Circle. In 1921 the wedge officially became part of Delaware.