Seaford, Maryland?

Three hundred fifty years ago the colonies in North America were controlled by wealthy families in England. The Penn family was in charge of Pennsylvania and the Calvert family had Maryland. But there weren't good maps to show the borders. This led to a lot of confusion.

Maryland claimed much of what is now Delaware and called our area Durham County. However, the Penn family felt that this area belonged to them and they took the Calvert family to court to settle the dispute. The court appointed surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to set the border between the two colonies. We call this the Mason-Dixon Line.

For more than 100 years, Seaford was in the Colony of Pennsylvania. Then on June 15, 1776, Delaware split from Pennsylvania – and from England.

The map on the first page shows what our peninsula would look like if the Calvert family had gotten their way.

Put a dot on the map to show where you think Seaford is located.

List 2 or 3 clues that helped you place the dot on the map?

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Now draw lines on the map to show the modern border between Maryland and Delaware.

Delaware celebrates June 15 as "Separation Day." Why do you think Delaware wanted to separate from Pennsylvania?

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If the border between Maryland and Pennsylvania had stayed the way it was on this map, do you think Delaware would have separated from Pennsylvania? Explain your answer.

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