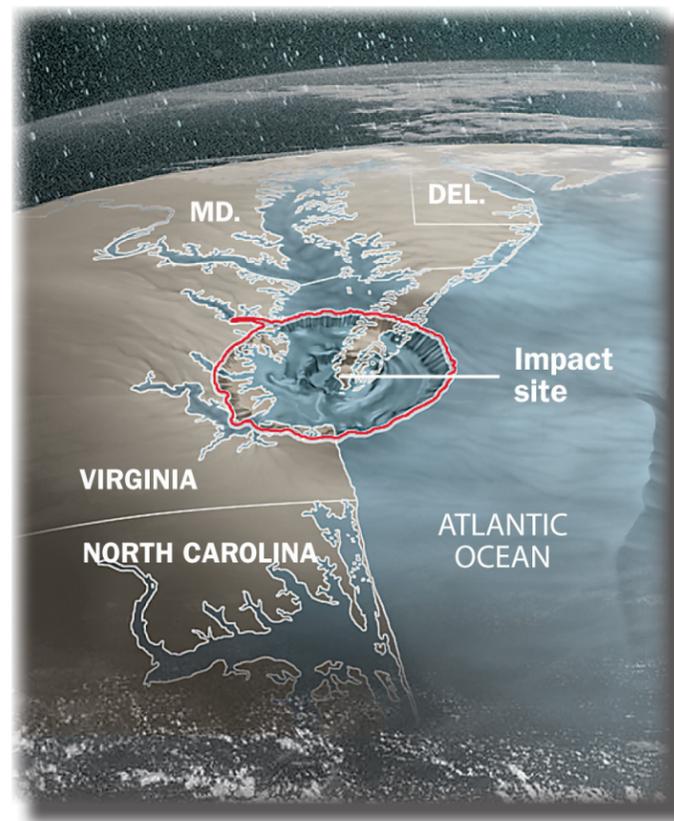


Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater

The world's sixth largest impact crater was created about 35 million years ago when a two to three mile wide asteroid or comet splashed into a shallow sea and shattered Earth's crust. Debris shot up and everything within 600 miles was killed. A crater formed, centered about eighteen miles east of Yorktown, near the town of Cape Charles, Virginia. Yorktown and Gloucester Point sit on the western rim of the buried crater and the York River bends sharply to the northeast because it crosses the underlying crater rim.



Yorktown and Gloucester Point sit on the western rim of the buried crater and the York River bends sharply to the northeast because it crosses the underlying crater rim.

Considerable scientific research has been conducted in recent years to increase understanding about this amazing feature. Debris from the impact has been identified as far away as the Caribbean Sea.

Illustrations courtesy of The Virginian Pilot.

