



Making a Dissected Map



In 1809 eight-year-old Orlando Brown wrote in a letter about having a dissected map. It sounds like science, but it was just a map cut into pieces to make a puzzle.

Orlando Brown's father John Brown, who built Liberty Hall, must have liked maps too. He owned a world atlas published in 1804. At Liberty Hall Historic Site, we made a dissected map by laminating a copy a U.S. map in that atlas.

Here's how:

Supplies and equipment

- A map printed on an 8 ½ x 11-inch sheet of heavy paper. You can use the 1804 map on the next page or one of your own.
- 2 single-sided self-seal laminating sheets, such as Scotch
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Peel the backing off one of the laminating sheets and place it sticky-side-up on a table.
2. Carefully lay the map, face down, on the sticky side of the laminating sheet.
3. Peel the backing off the second laminating sheet and attach it to the back of the map.
4. Press the laminated map together to smooth it out.
5. Cut the map into pieces to make the puzzle. The more pieces you cut, the more difficult it will be to put back together!





United States map from *A New and Elegant General Atlas* by Aaron Arrowsmith (1804)
Liberty Hall Historic Site Collections