

“I hear, and  
I forget;  
I see, and  
I remember;  
I do, and  
I understand.”

—ancient Chinese  
proverb

# Introduction

**Y**ou’ve probably had this experience—that when you touch and manipulate something, you understand it better than when you just hear or read about it. Research has shown that when students engage in a kinesthetic activity (e.g., touch and manipulate objects), the two hemispheres of their brains are stimulated simultaneously. This helps ensure that new information is stored in their long-term memory. Kinesthetic activities are especially helpful in making abstract concepts, such as American history, concrete. But how do you teach American history in a kinesthetic way?

Enter *Interactive 3-D Maps: American History!* The maps in this book highlight important events in our country’s history, from the arrival of the first people in America to our leading role in the space race. Each map features one or more bold lines, which indicate routes that define a historical event. Students cut out, assemble, and insert illustrated pieces into the maps and move them along the routes, strengthening the connection in their minds between the maps and related people, geography, and historical events. Other illustrated pieces are captioned with informative text, enriching students’ understanding of the historical event. (See page 5 for illustrated, easy-to-follow instructions on how to make the maps and related pieces.)

In each chapter of this book, you’ll find the following sections:

**Mapmaking:** contains easy, step-by-step directions for assembling and placing additional illustrated pieces or other elements on the map

**Map in Motion:** describes where students insert the moving pieces and how to move them

**Map Points:** includes background information on the chapter’s topic. Share some or all of this information with students.

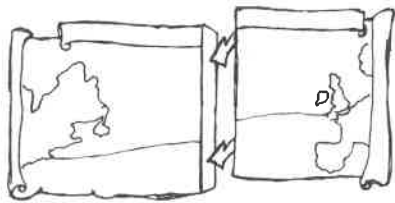
**Teaching With the Map:** provides discussion questions to use with the map to teach the chapter’s main concepts

**More Mapwork:** suggests other map-related activities to extend your students’ investigation of the topic

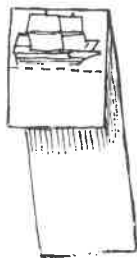
Together, the interactive maps, detailed illustrations, background information, and lessons in this book are sure to make American history come alive for you and your students. In addition, students will gain skills in reading maps, understanding symbols, using a map scale, interpreting information, identifying directions, identifying topographical features, and locating places, states, regions, and continents. Finally, don’t miss the extensive resource section at the back of the book to help you and your students explore American history further. Enjoy!

# Making the Maps and Pieces

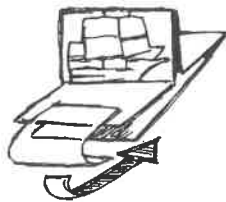
1. Photocopy the two illustrated pages in each chapter.
2. Cut out the map sections along the thick black outlines. The section on the first page will always be the left or upper part of the completed map.
3. Tape the section on the second page to the first to complete each map, as shown.



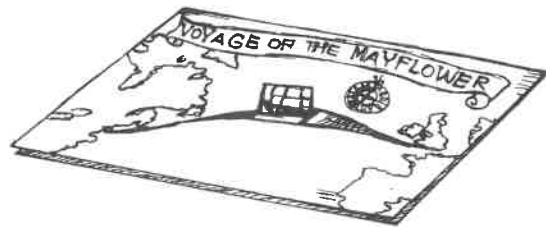
4. Cut out each moving piece and fold along the dashed midline between the two identical illustrations, as shown.



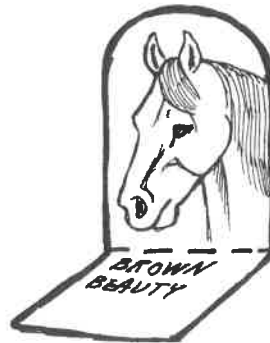
5. To make the base, fold up the side flaps along the dashed lines. Then fold the longer side under and tape in place, as shown.



6. Cut a slit along the bold arrow line(s) on each map. Insert the moving piece(s) between the slit so that only the illustrations show on the map surface. Make sure the piece(s) can move freely.



7. Cut out the additional pieces. Fold the pieces along the dashed lines so the text can be read easily, as shown. Tape the pieces on the map as directed on the "Mapmaking" instructions in each chapter.



8. You may want to mount each map on a piece of cardboard or construction paper to keep it sturdy. Make sure the moving pieces can still move freely along the slit.