

UnLOCK THE BOX AT HOME

with Sanborn Maps (Washington, DC)



GET INSPIRED

Did you know the Library of Congress has the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world? We have over 5.5 million maps including a collection of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, many of which are available online. Read more [about our collection of Sanborn Maps](#).

In this activity, children will make their way around a Sanborn map showing a part of Washington, DC from 1888. Each question answered correctly will reveal one digit of a four-digit secret code that will UnLOCK a box full of treasures!

Key Terms

- ✂ **Compass Rose:** A figure on a compass, map, nautical chart, or monument used to display the orientation of the cardinal directions (north, east, south, and west) and their intermediate points.
- ✂ **Legend:** The map key that describes how to interpret the map's symbols.
- ✂ **Scale:** The relationship between distances on a map and on the ground.

GET READY

1. Collect materials:
 - ✂ Ruler
 - ✂ [Legend/Map Key](#)
 - ✂ [Sanborn Map #10](#), worksheet, answer sheet
 - ✂ [Sanborn Map #2](#), worksheet, and answer sheet
 - ✂ Your "UnLOCK" box using the instructions here with a treasure of your choosing inside
 - ✂ Four-combination lock, using the code(s) below
 - ✂ Your "UnLOCK" box using the [instructions here](#)
2. Download and print maps and clues
3. Set your lock to the code used below or create your own



UnLOCK THE BOX

1. Use the clues to explore the maps and answer the questions
2. Use the code to "UnLOCK" the box!

Food for thought: Notice the kinds of businesses that existed in 1888. For example, think about and discuss why there might be so many stables! What are other businesses that you notice would be relevant then but not so much today?

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[Sanborn Map #2](#)



Image 3 of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA

Explore this map and answer questions to UnLOCK the Box and discover treasures from the Library's Geography and Map Division! Each question reveals one digit of the four-digit secret code ... **Good Luck!**

First digit: Find the distance from the Great Falls Ice Company to the Independent Ice Company? (Hint: Use the SCALE to help with measurements!)

1- 2 feet 2- 70 feet 3- 600 feet 4- 5,000 feet

Second digit: Answer the following: In which direction would you have to travel to get from the Johnson Bros. Coal Yard to the Anthony Bowen School? (Hint: Use the COMPASS ROSE to help you!)

1- East 2-Northwest 3-West 4-South

Third digit: Answer the following: Which alley is located West of Tenth Street, N.W.?

1- Desmond Alley 2-Bowen Alley 3- Stephenson Alley 4-Walker Alley

Fourth digit: Locate the Johnson Bros. Kindling Shop on Twelfth Street, N.W. and F Street, N.W. According to the MAP KEY, what material is this building made from?

1- Iron 2-Frame 3- Brick 4- Wood

Record your SECRET CODE here!

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[Sanborn Map #10](#)



Explore this map and answer questions to UnLOCK the Box and discover treasures from the Library's Geography and Map Division! Each question reveals one digit of the four-digit secret code ... **Good Luck!**

First digit: Answer the following: Most of the buildings in this neighborhood are made from which material? (Hint: use the Map Key to find the material)

1- Frame 2- Wood 3- Brick 4- Iron

Second digit: Answer the following: In which direction must you travel to get from First Presbyterian Church to Metropolitan M.E. Church?

1- South 2-North 3-Northeast 4-West

Third digit: Answer the following: On which street is the Globe Printing Office?

1-Missouri Avenue 2- Louisiana Avenue 3-Third Street 4- Pennsylvania Avenue

Fourth digit: Answer the following: Which alley is just south of Havenner's Bakery?

1- Express Alley 2-Marble Alley 3- Kimball Alley 4- Jackson Hall Alley

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EXPLORE MORE

- ✂ Use the collection to search for your hometown and explore or create your own map hunt for your family!
- ✂ Search for the same town on Google Maps to compare differences from then to now.

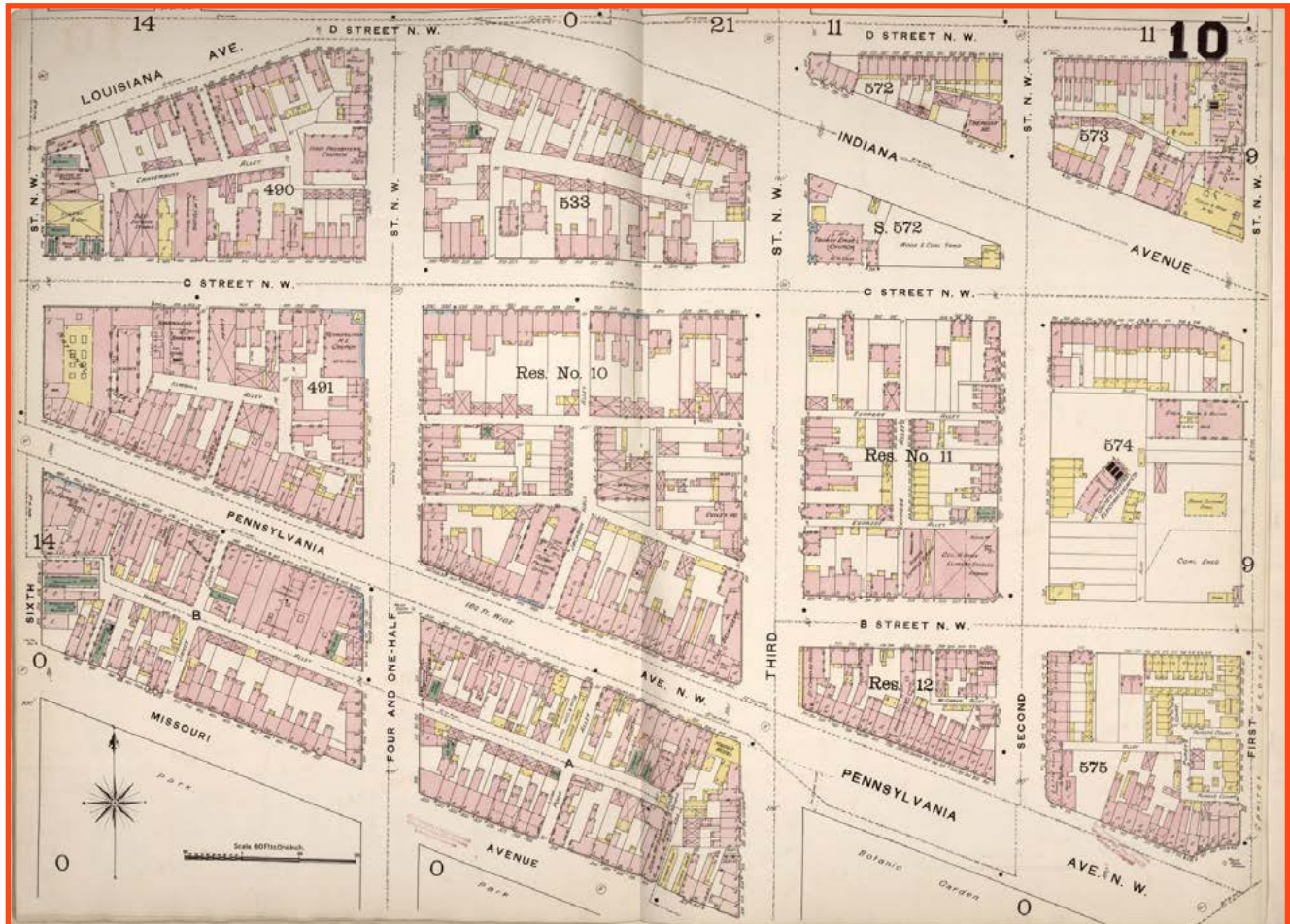


Image 11 of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia. - Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA