Instructions for using the "Indian Land Cessions Map"

If you're able to print out at home, you can make the "Indian Land Cessions Map" extra interactive.

1) Print out three copies of the map, all the same size.
2) Set one to the side. This is Map 1 - the land that is now Colorado, originally inhabited by a number of Native American tribes before settlers came.
3) Take the second copy and cut out the whole area around both the orange and small green section in the top right corner (labeled 426 and 477) as one piece. This smaller piece is Map 2 - the land the U.S. Government agreed to set aside for Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes in the original 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie, the first treaty with Plains tribes and the United States. It’s not to be confused with the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.
4) Take the last copy and cut out the small green section (labeled 477). This final piece is Map 3 - the remaining Cheyenne and Arapaho land after the subsequent Treaty of Fort Wise stripped away much of the land the original treaty had promised.

*Note that this map illustrates Cheyenne and Arapaho treaty lands within Colorado. The Treaty of Fort Laramie 1851 lands were defined by the land between the Platte River and Arkansas River, extending north into Wyoming and Nebraska. The western boundary was the Continental Divide and the eastern boundary was in central Kansas. See below.*
This map illustrates the full 1851 treaty lands dedicated to Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes (5), and is just included for reference. The script and instructions refer to the map of just Colorado lands.