

Statue of Liberty

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ushistorystatueofliberty.mp3



The Statue of Liberty
Photo by Ducksters

The Statue of Liberty is a large statue that stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The statue was a gift from the people of [France](#) and was dedicated on October 28, 1886. It has become one of the most iconic symbols of the United States of America. The official name of the statue is "Liberty Enlightening the World", but she also goes by other names including "Lady Liberty" and the "Mother of Exiles."

What does she represent?

The statue represents the freedom and liberty of the United States democracy. The figure is modeled after a Roman goddess named Libertas. The torch she holds high represents the enlightenment of the world. There are also broken chains at her feet that symbolize the United State breaking free from tyranny. She holds a tablet in her left hand that represents the law and has July 4, 1776 inscribed on it in Roman numerals.

How tall is she?

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The height of the statue from the base to the tip of the torch is 151 feet 1 inch (46 meters). If you include the pedestal and the foundation, she is 305 feet 1 inch tall (93 meters). This is about the height of a 30 story building.

Some other interesting measurements for the statue include her head (17 feet 3 inches tall), her nose (4 feet 6 inches long), her right arm (42 feet long), and her index finger (8 feet long).

When was she built?



Statue of Liberty Arm, 1876
Philadelphia Centennial Exposition
by Unknown

The project to build the Statue of Liberty was announced in France in 1875. The arm and torch were constructed first and were displayed at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. The head was completed next and shown at the 1878 Paris World's Fair. The rest of the statue was built in sections over several years.

In 1885, the sections of the statue were shipped to the United States. The assembly of the statue began in April of 1886. First the iron frame was built and then the copper pieces were put over the top. The statue was finally completed and dedicated on October 28, 1886.

Who designed the Statue of Liberty?

The idea for the statue was first presented by French anti-slavery activist Edouard de Laboulaye to the French sculptor Frederic Bartholdi. Bartholdi then took the idea and ran with it. He wanted to design a giant statue. He designed the Statue of Liberty, helped to raise funding for the project, and picked the site in New York Harbor.

Who built the Statue of Liberty?

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The internal construction was built by civil engineer Gustave Eiffel (who would later build the Eiffel Tower). He came up with the unique idea to use an iron grid structure inside the statue for support. This would give the statue strength and reduce the stress on the outer copper skin at the same time.

Visiting the Statue

Today, the Statue of Liberty is part of the U.S National Park Service. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. Around 4 million people visit the monument each year. It is free to visit, but there is a cost to take the ferry to the island. If you want to climb to the top, be sure to get your tickets early as only 240 people each day are allowed to climb to the crown.

Interesting Facts About the Statue of Liberty

- The exterior of the statue is made of copper which has turned green due to oxidation.
- There are 354 steps to climb to the top of the crown inside the statue.
- The face of the statue looks a lot like the mother of the sculptor Bartholdi.
- The statue was often the first thing that immigrants coming to America would see as they neared [Ellis Island](#).
- The statue weighs around 225 tons.
- The crown of the statue has seven rays which represent the seven continents and seven seas of the world.

Activities

- Take a ten question [quiz](#) about this page.



Test Quiz

[Statue of Liberty](#).

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1. What country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
 - a. England
 - b. Germany
 - c. China
 - d. France
 - e. Russia

2. What year was the Statue of Liberty dedicated?
 - a. 1776
 - b. 1886
 - c. 1901
 - d. 1945
 - e. 1976

3. Who designed the internal grid structure that supports the statue?
 - a. Thomas Edison
 - b. Henry Ford
 - c. Gustave Eiffel
 - d. Isaac Newton
 - e. Antoine Lavoisier

4. What does the tablet in her left hand represent?
 - a. Law
 - b. Education
 - c. Reading
 - d. Writing
 - e. England

5. If you include the pedestal and foundation, around how tall is the statue?
 - a. 50 feet
 - b. 100 feet
 - c. 300 feet
 - d. 500 feet
 - e. 1000 feet

6. True or False: It took around 100 years to build the statue.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

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7. What is the statue holding high in her right hand?
 - a. Sword
 - b. Flag
 - c. Nothing
 - d. Pen
 - e. Torch

8. Who is the statue modeled after?
 - a. The Greek goddess Aphrodite
 - b. Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra VII
 - c. Queen Elizabeth I
 - d. The Roman goddess Libertas
 - e. Martha Washington

9. Who was the sculptor that designed the Statue of Liberty?
 - a. Pablo Picasso
 - b. Henry Moore
 - c. Frederic Bartholdi
 - d. Jasper Johns
 - e. Auguste Rodin

10. True or False: Around 4 million people visit the statue each year.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE