

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Statue of Liberty

“Standing Up for Freedom”

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. The Statue of Liberty is a monument that stands in New York Harbor. It is on an island called Liberty Island. The statue was a gift to the US from France. In 1865, a French writer wanted to create a monument to celebrate the US. The writer’s name was Édouard René de Laboulaye. He admired the US’s independent stance. The US had been free from Great Britain for almost 100 years. In 1875, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi began to design the statue. It was modeled after the Roman goddess of freedom. A French architect helped Bartholdi build the statue. The architect’s name was Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. He made sure the statue was strong enough to stay up for a long time. Meanwhile, builders in the US started to create a pedestal, or base, for the statue to stand on.

Notes

2. The US and France did not have enough money to finish the Statue of Liberty. People in both countries donated money to build it. The statue’s head and the arm holding the torch were finished before the rest of the statue. They were put on display in the US and France for people to see. The inside of the statue is made of iron. The outside is made of 300 sheets of copper. It was originally the color of a penny, but over time, air turns copper green. This is why the Statue of Liberty now looks green.

Notes

3. The Statue of Liberty was finished in July 1884. It was 151 feet tall without its base. It was so big that it had to be shipped to the US in 350 different pieces in 214 crates. It arrived in New York Harbor in 1885. It took four months to put it back together on its new pedestal. On October 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in front of a huge crowd. The statue stands near Ellis Island. Millions of immigrants passed through Ellis Island in the late 1800s. They came to the US for opportunities they did not have in their homelands. The statue was a symbol of hope to them.

Notes

4. The Statue of Liberty wears a crown with seven rays. They represent the seven continents and seven seas of the world. She holds a torch in her right hand. The torch stands for knowledge lighting the way to liberty and freedom. In her left hand, she holds a tablet. The tablet is a book of laws. It has the date July 4, 1776 written on it in Roman numerals. This is the date that the US signed the Declaration of Independence. At the feet of the statue, there are broken chains. They symbolize breaking free from oppression. On the base of the statue, there is a poem called “The New Colossus.” It was written by Emma Lazarus. The poem is about welcoming people from other countries to the US.

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