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The Statue of Liberty

Today we're going to talk about the Statue of Liberty....in just a minute.

The Statue of Liberty is a famous monument in New York City. It's a sculpture of a woman holding a torch. Because the woman represents freedom, some people call her Lady Liberty.

The people of France gave the statue to the United States in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This special birthday present was so big, it had to be shipped in 214 separate crates. It took workers several months to assemble the pieces. On October 28, 1886, the statue was unveiled for everyone to see. At the time, it was the tallest human-made structure in the country.

The statue cost around \$250,000—an enormous sum in those days. French citizens donated their own money to pay for it. Why did they do that?

The French hoped the statue would inspire their country to adopt a government like that of the United States—in other words, a democracy. In a democracy, a country isn't ruled by one person. Instead, citizens elect representatives to create laws, and everyone is considered equal.

Every year, millions of people visit Lady Liberty. Some even climb the 162 stairs leading to her crown.

Why do you think so many people want to see the statue?