

Name _____ Date _____

The Statue of Liberty

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. b'

A French professor named \xc3\x89douard Ren\xc3\xa9 de Laboulaye came up with the idea of giving a **monument** to the United States for the 100th anniversary of the **Declaration of Independence**. Laboulaye had never visited America, but he was an expert on its government. He dreamed that France would one day adopt a similar type of government\xe2\x80\x94that is, a **democracy**. In a democracy, a country isn't ruled by one person or family. Instead, citizens elect representatives to create laws. In a democracy, everyone is considered equal.

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The **Statue of Liberty**\xe2\x80\x99s original name was La Libert\xc3\xa9 \xc3\xa9clairant le monde. This is French for \xe2\x80\x9cLiberty Enlightening the World.\xe2\x80\x9d The word \xe2\x80\x9cenlighten\xe2\x80\x9d means to shed light on, or to explain something clearly. With the Statue of Liberty, Laboulaye hoped to enlighten France to democracy's advantages.

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Notes

2. b'

Notes

A sculptor named Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi designed the **Statue of Liberty**. He decided to use a goddess-like figure to **represent** the idea of freedom. The figure holds a tablet in her left hand and a **torch** in her right hand. The Statue is made out of more than 300 sheets of copper, a very bendable metal.

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For the Statue's inside, architect Gustave Eiffel designed a skeleton made out of iron a very strong metal. The skeleton supports the Statue and allows it to stay upright. In this way, it's not unlike a human skeleton!

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Although the French built the Statue of Liberty, the Americans built its base, or pedestal. To pay for it, the American Committee for the Statue of Liberty collected donations, sold models of the Statue, and held events. One of these events was an art auction. Emma Lazarus, a social worker and writer, agreed to write a poem for the occasion.

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Lazarus's poem was called "The New Colossus." In it, she called the Statue the "Mother of Exiles." An "exile" is someone who has had to leave their homeland. At that time, many "exiles" were coming to the United States in search of safety and opportunity. Many of them were escaping from difficult situations, such as poverty or danger.

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In the final two lines of "The New Colossus," the Statue herself speaks, saying:

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Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I'll lift my lamp beside the golden door!

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Lazarus's poem was popular. It was even published in The New York Times. But in the years following the Statue's **assembly** and **unveiling**, many people forgot about the poem. Then Lazarus's friend, Georgina Schuyler, came across it in a book. Schuyler thought it should be given more attention, and she arranged for "The New Colossus" to be displayed on one of the Statue's pedestal's inside walls. It remains there today.

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