

Happy Birthday to The Statue of Liberty

On July 4, 1884 the people of France gave the United States of America an incredible birthday present: The Statue of Liberty! The idea for 'The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World' (which is her official name) came from French anti-slavery activist Edouard de Laboulaye. The statue was to be a symbol of liberty, democracy and friendship. French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi (bar-TOLE-dee) and a team of craftsmen worked ten hours a day and seven days a week, for nine years to build The Statue of Liberty! The interior iron frame, that supports her like a spine, was designed by the engineer, Gustave Eiffel, who later designed the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The frame was built first. Then the copper panels were put on top of it. The copper is now green because of a chemical reaction called **oxidation** that happens when metal is exposed to water (the evaporating seawater that surrounds the statue).



P.S Art Exhibit at The Met, NYC
Aysha Fatima, "Lady Liberty," Grade 1

Lady Liberty holds a tablet in her left hand that has the Roman numerals VII-IV-MDCCLXXVI (Latin letters meaning July 4, 1776) inscribed on it. She holds a torch in her right hand that represents the enlightenment of the world. The seven spikes on the crown she wears are for the seven continents and the seven oceans. At her feet are broken chains that symbolize freedom from tyranny.

Statue Stats:

- * The Statue of Liberty was officially dedicated on October 28, 1886
- * The height of the statue from the base to the tip of the torch is 151 feet 1 inch. If you include the pedestal and the foundation, she is 305 feet 1 inch tall.
- * The \$250,000 cost to build the statue was paid for by the French people. The American people raised \$270,000 to pay for building the pedestal upon which she stands.

- * The words engraved on the pedestal of The Statue of Liberty are part of the sonnet, **The New Colossus**, written by poet Emma Lazarus as part of an art and literary auction that raised the money to pay for the pedestal.
- * The Statue of Liberty weighs 450,000 pounds. The sandals on her feet are each 25 feet long. One of her fingers is 8 feet in length and her nose is almost 5 feet long.
- * You would have to climb up 354 steps (about 22 stories) to look out of one of the 25 windows in Lady Liberty's crown.
- * Although the figure for the statue is based on a Roman goddess named Libertas, the face of the statue looks a lot like sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi's mother. (He used her as the model.)
- * The Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island, in the New York harbor, but there are replicas in Paris, Las Vegas and many other cities around the world.

More Statue of Liberty Links:

<https://www.nps.gov/stli/index.html>

<https://artprojectsforkids.org/easy-statue-liberty-tutorial/>

<http://www.history-for-kids.com/statue-of-liberty-poem.html>