

The Statue of Liberty

Pre-reading

Questions: What do you know about the subject of this reading?

Definitions: Oppression – the act of being ruled by cruel or unfair authority

Enlighten – to give information or knowledge to

Promenade – a public place for walking



Reading

16 The Statue of Liberty celebrated her 100th birthday on October 28, 1986. The people of France
16 gave the Statue to the people of the United States. This gift was given in honor of the countries'
35 friendship that was established during the American Revolution.

43 The Statue became a joint effort between the two countries. It was agreed upon that the American
60 people would build the pedestal. The French people were responsible for the Statue and its assembly in
77 the U.S. The goal was to have it completed by 1876, in honor of the **centennial** of the Declaration of
97 Independence.

98 Many symbolic features are found within the Statue. There are twenty five windows in the crown.
114 These windows represent gemstones found on the earth and the heaven's rays shining over the world.
130 The seven rays of the Statue's crown represent the seven seas and seven continents of the world.

147 The tablet that the Statue holds in her left hand reads (in Roman numerals) "July 4th, 1776," the
165 date of American Independence. Wrapped around the Statue's feet is a broken chain. She has broken
181 the chain of oppression and is free to move into the world. Her torch shines to enlighten the world.

200 The Statue was completed in France in July, 1884. It arrived in New York Harbor in June of 1885.
219 In transit, the Statue was reduced to 350 individual pieces and packed in 214 crates. The granite
236 pedestal, built inside the star shaped walls of Fort Wood, was completed in 1886. Once the pedestal
253 was complete, it took four months to reassemble the Statue.

263 The Statue is a well built structure. The copper used in creating the Statue weighs 62,000 pounds.
280 The total weight of steel in it is 250,000 pounds. The concrete foundation weighs 54 million pounds.
297 The copper sheeting of the Statue is 3/32 of an inch thick which is the thickness of two pennies put
318 together. Winds of 50 miles per hour cause it to sway 3 inches; the torch sways 5 inches.

336 Annually, over 5 million people visit the Statue and Liberty Island, the area on which it stands.
353 The tragedy of September 11, 2001 resulted in the closure of Liberty Island for 100 days. The Statue
371 remained closed until August 3, 2004.

377 Visitors presently have access to the Statue's pedestal observation deck, promenade, museum, and
390 areas of Fort Wood. Access to the crown of the Statue of Liberty and the copper structure itself remain
409 closed.

410 Source: National Park Service – U.S. Department of the Interior

Level 7.5

Understanding

1. What countries deserve credit for the Statue of Liberty? How did they work together? _____

2. What does the word **centennial** mean? _____

3. Why was the Statue built? _____

4. How did the Statue get to the U.S.? _____

5. How does wind affect the Statue? _____

6. What was the goal date for completion? Why that date? _____

7. What are two symbolic features of the Statue? What are their meanings? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: If you've ever visited the Statue of Liberty, write about your time with her.

Option C: What does the Statue of Liberty mean to you?
