

LEVELED BOOK • J

# The Story of the Statue

**Multi  
level  
J•M•P**

Written by Heather Lynne Banks

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A boy taking photos of the statue

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The Statue of Liberty as seen today

## Introduction

The **Statue** of **Liberty** is the tallest statue in the United States. It can be seen from far away. Where did such a big statue come from?





Edouard de Laboulaye, the Frenchman who came up with the idea of the Statue of Liberty

## **A Gift from France**

In 1865, a man in France wanted to help America celebrate its 100th birthday. He said France should give America a gift. The gift was the Statue of Liberty.



Liberty Island, near New York City

First, the United States and France found a place to put the statue. They decided to put it on an **island** near New York.



Workers building a piece of the statue in Paris, France, in 1876

## Building the Statue

The United States built the base for the statue. France built the statue itself. It had to look good and last a long time. The inside was made of iron. The outside was made of copper.



The finished statue in Paris, France, in 1884

The statue was put together, but it was too big to move in one piece. So it was taken apart again! The pieces were sent to America on a big ship.





A painting of the celebration in 1886

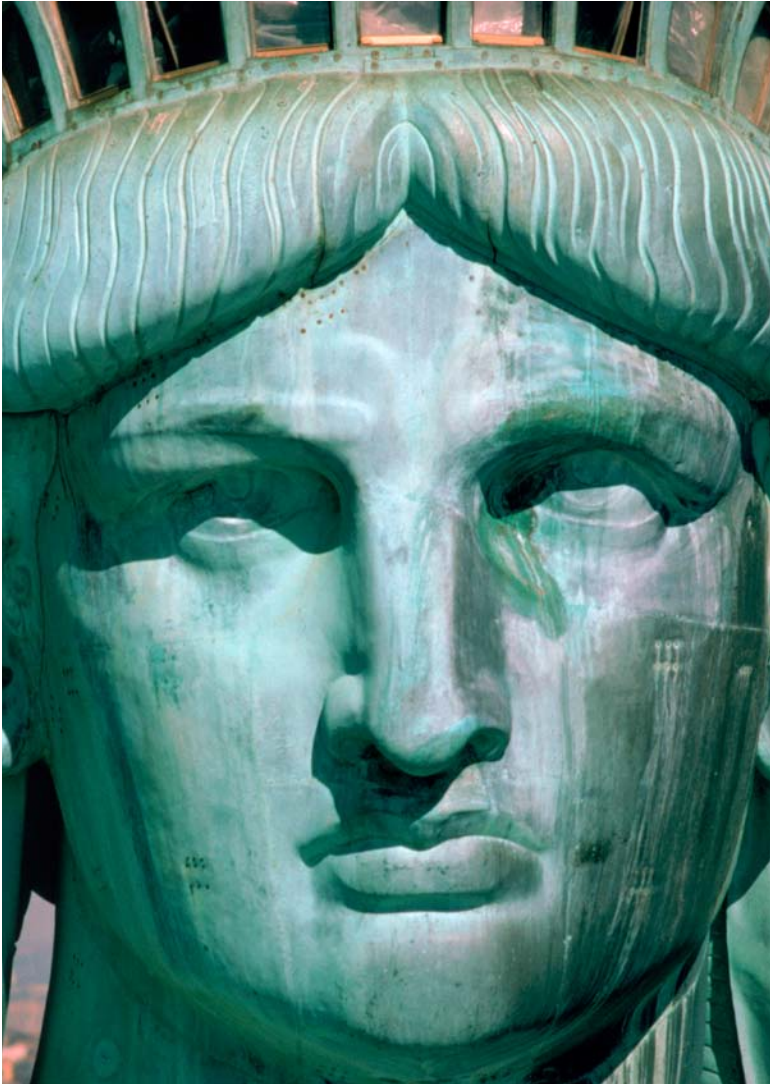
The statue was finally done in 1886.  
The president of the United States  
spoke at a big celebration.



Workers fixing the statue in 1985

## **Big and Green**

The Statue of Liberty now looks like a big green woman. It weighs as much as 115 cars. It is as tall as a 30-story building with the base.



The many colors of the copper on the statue

The statue started out the color of a new penny. Over the years, the air turned the copper green.



Children waving hello to their new home in the United States

## **What the Statue Means**

The Statue of Liberty is a work of art. It is also a sign of friendship. It has welcomed many people who have moved to the United States.





July 4, 1776, as it is written on the tablet in the ancient Roman system of numbers

The Statue of Liberty also has special meaning. The **torch** in its right hand stands for **freedom**. The **tablet** in its left hand has July 4, 1776, written on it. The United States became its own country on this date.



One of the big boats that carries people to and from the Statue of Liberty

## Visiting the Statue

Many people from around the world visit the Statue of Liberty each year.



Visitors on their way to see the statue



A girl being lifted to see out of a window in the statue's crown

They come to see the statue that  
stands for freedom.

## Glossary

- freedom** (*n.*) the state of being free, or having the right and power to act and think as one wishes (p. 13)
- island** (*n.*) an area of land surrounded by water (p. 6)
- liberty** (*n.*) the right to believe and act independently of other people (p. 4)
- statue** (*n.*) a three-dimensional work of art, usually in the shape of a person or other animal (p. 4)
- tablet** (*n.*) a flat surface usually used for writing (p. 13)
- torch** (*n.*) a stick with material at one end that can be burned to provide light (p. 13)



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*A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book*

*Word Count: 304*



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