

Lady Liberty

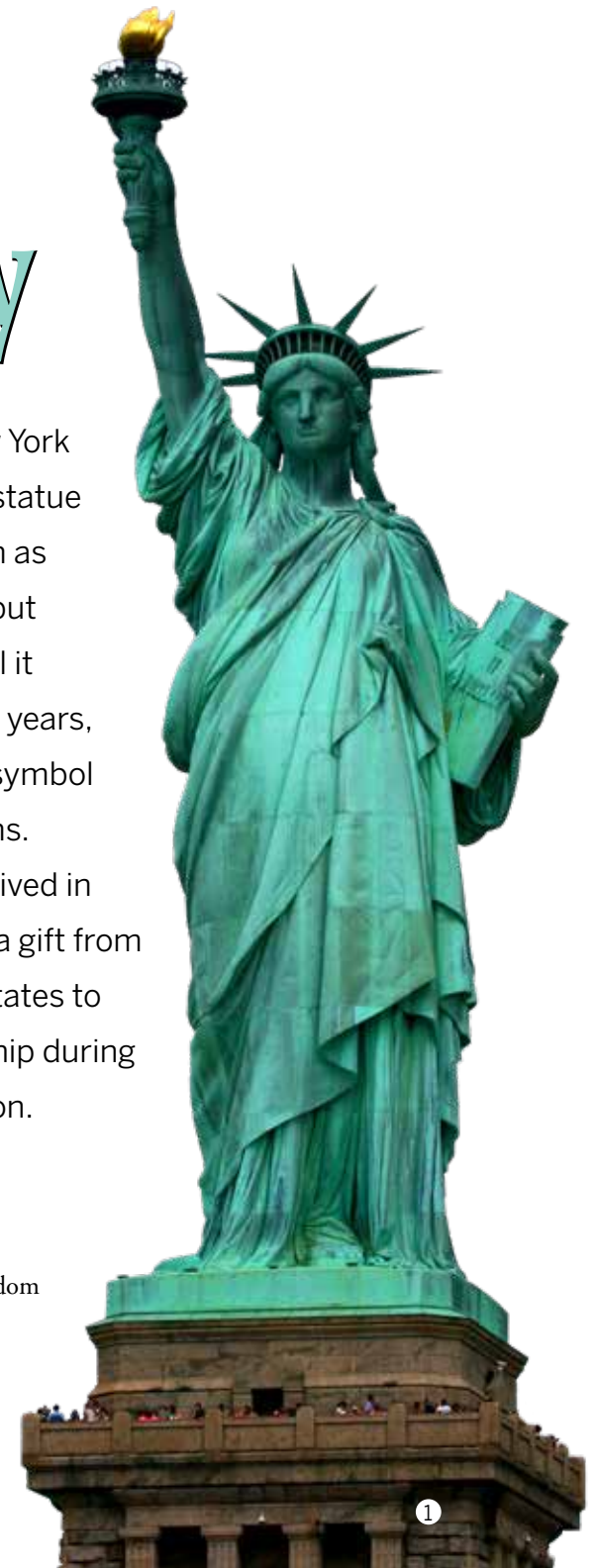
by Linda Haas Manley

Lady Liberty

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On an island in New York Harbor stands a huge statue of a woman. It is known as the Statue of **Liberty**, but many people like to call it Lady Liberty. For many years, the statue has been a symbol of freedom to all nations. Lady Liberty, which arrived in New York in 1885, was a gift from France to the United States to celebrate their friendship during the American Revolution.

Lady Liberty is a symbol of freedom to people all over the world.



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Lady Liberty

Level X

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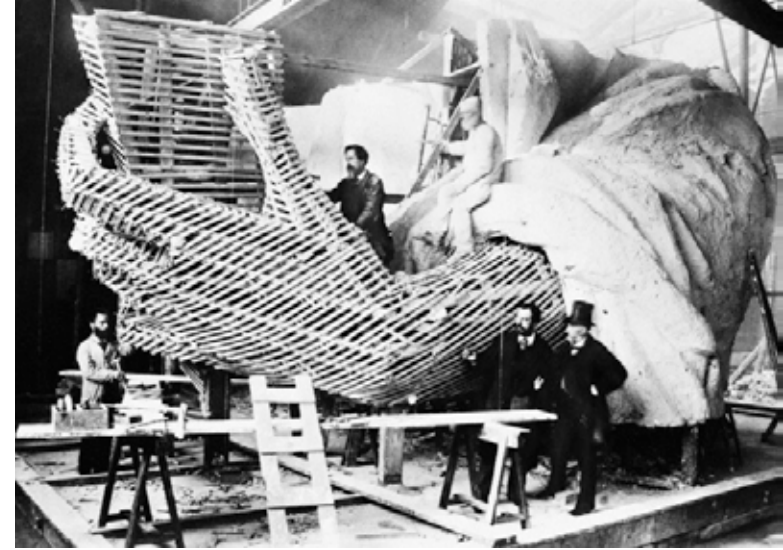
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France had helped the United States break free from Great Britain when the American colonies declared their **independence**, or freedom, in 1776. Many people in France also admired the **democracy** that the United States founded after the war. Democracy allows the people to rule a country, instead of a king or queen. In 1865, after the northern states won the American Civil War, French officials wanted to honor the U.S. for continuing to be a democracy and ending slavery.

A French artist, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, was hired to design a statue. Bartholdi based his design on the Roman goddess of liberty, and an **engineer** named Alexandre Gustave Eiffel helped him carry out his plan. Eiffel made a steel framework for the inside. The statue was built to stand up to strong storms and winds. It would also be the first statue ever built that people could climb inside.

Bartholdi decided to use copper to cover the statue. Copper changes color when exposed to air, which is why the statue is now light green.

The statue is covered with thin copper, like a modern penny.



Bartholdi discussing the modeling of Lady Liberty's hand with a visitor.

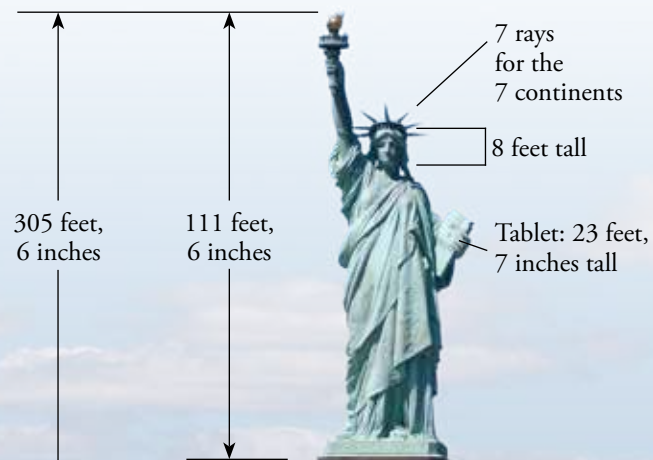
France planned to deliver the statue in 1876 to celebrate America's 100th birthday, but there wasn't enough money to complete the statue in time. People in the U.S. and France worked hard to raise the money, and the statue was finished in 1884. Then it was taken apart, and over 300 pieces were packed into 214 crates. These cases traveled by ship to New York.

After the ship arrived in June 1885, the crates were opened, and the statue was put back together and placed on a tall stone **pedestal**. It was finally opened officially on October 28, 1886. The statue became a symbol of freedom and new life to millions of immigrants who sailed to the United States.

Since then, the statue has gone through many changes. In 1933, Lady Liberty became part of the National Park Service. In 1986, the statue had a complete **restoration** that cost \$87 million and made the statue like new again.

Lady Liberty continues to stand tall. The statue welcomes millions of people from all over the world who visit it every year.

Fun Facts About Lady Liberty



Level X

Informational

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