

## How tall is the Statue of Liberty?

That depends on how you measure it! The height of the Statue of Liberty is 151 ft. from the base to the torch. With the pedestal and foundation included in the measurement, the full height is 305 ft.

Miss Liberty sits proudly atop the 65 ft. tall foundation fashioned in the shape of an eleven-point star, and an 89 ft. stone pedestal.

## Other Statue of Liberty Dimensions

Wow! That lady's got big feet!

It's true, Miss Liberty's feet are 25 ft long, making her a US women's shoe size 879. She also has a 35 ft. waist, and her face is more than 8 ft. tall. Her right arm, which holds the ever-lit torch, measures 42 ft.



And I thought I had a big nose! The Statue of Liberty's nose is 4 ft. 6 in.

There are 354 steps inside the statue from the pedestal to the crown, which was open to visitors prior to September 11, 2001. The crown, with its 25 window-view of New York Harbor, will reopen to the public on July 4, 2009. In 2004, public access was granted to the observation deck and museum gallery, but the rest of the interior has remained closed.

The crown has seven points, representing the seven seas and seven continents. Each individual ray of the crown weighs about 150 pounds, and measures up to 9 ft.

The total weight of the Statue of Liberty is 450,000 pounds (225 tons). The copper alone weighs around 100 U.S. tons and is  $\frac{3}{32}$  of an inch thick—a little less than the thickness of two pennies. It was hammered by hand into plates, which are attached to the interior iron frame.

This early video of the Statue of Liberty, filmed in 1898, was filmed by the Edison Film Manufacturing Company.

## Why is the Statue of Liberty green?

The Statue of Liberty is coated with a thin layer of copper, which turns a blue-green with age due to chemical reactions between metal and water. This process is known as [patination](#) and occurs with most copper when it's placed outside.

The true color of the Statue of Liberty before patination was a shiny reddish brown color. The photo to the right shows a replica of the statue and what the Statue of Liberty's original color would look like.

## What is the Statue of Liberty made of?

The Statue of Liberty is made of an iron frame with a sheet of pure copper hung over it. The torch flame is so bright because it is coated in gold leaf instead of copper.

However, it wasn't always that way—the flame, too, was originally coated in copper. During renovations to the statue in 1916, Gutzon Borglum, the man who sculpted [Mount Rushmore](#), was appointed to cut away much of the copper surface of the torch's flame and install glass windows. Snow and rain leaked in through the windows, aiding in corrosion.

In the mid-1980s (the statue's 100th birthday), the old torch was removed due to excessive damage and placed in the monument's museum. The replacement torch is now covered with gold leaf.



## Did you know the Statue of Liberty was a lighthouse?

That's right, until the restoration of 1986, the torch acted as a lighthouse for ships coming into New York Harbor. The Statue of Liberty was the first lighthouse to use electric lamps. The government had to reserve a whole energy plant just to power the statue!



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## What does the Statue of Liberty represent?



The Statue of Liberty represents many things, among them friendship between nations and freedom from oppression. Before air travel, ships would sail into New York Harbor and Lady Liberty would welcome their passengers, many of them being immigrants traveling to the United States for the first time. Lady Liberty is one of the first sites when sailing into the harbor, and she is symbolic of freedom.

### **Why is the Statue of Liberty important?**

Historically, the Statue of Liberty is important because she was given to the U.S. by France to celebrate America's first 100 years as a nation. It commemorates the alliance between France and the U.S. during the Revolutionary War.

Lady Liberty's classic stature, face, and attire come from the [Roman goddess Libertas](#), who also represents freedom from tyranny and oppression. The crown is reminiscent of a halo and its spikes show similarities to those of the sun gods—the Roman Apollo, and the Greek Helios. Her right foot is raised as if she is continually on the move, forever bringing freedom to others.

Lady carries enlightenment to the world with the forever-lit torch (Liberty's original name was Liberty Enlightening the World). Along with tools, the ability to create fire is one of the skills that led to civilization as we know it. Fire is symbolic of knowledge and brings light to the people.

### **Where is the Statue of Liberty located?**

The statue stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, but the location of the Statue of Liberty has not always been so clear. Originally, the island was known as Bedloe Island and was officially renamed in 1956. Before Lady Liberty inhabited the island, it was home to Fort Wood. The fort was built in the shape of an eleven-point star, upon which the statue and pedestal now sit.



The island itself has had quite a history: it was a quarantine station for smallpox victims in the 18th century, a summer home for the Earl of Cassils, a rental property, a place for Tory refugees, a lighthouse, and finally, a defensive fort.

The Statue of Liberty is closer to New Jersey than New York and, in fact, resides in New Jersey's waters. However, it has been established as part of the 8th Congressional District of New York

according to the U.S. Geological Survey. New Jersey has never claimed rights to the island.





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## What is the quote on the statue of liberty?

There are several phrases associated with the Statue of Liberty, but the most recognizable is "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." This quote comes from Emma Lazarus' sonnet, *New Colossus*, which she wrote for a fundraiser auction to raise money for the pedestal upon which the Statue of Liberty now sits. The poem did not receive much recognition and was quite forgotten after the auction.

In the early 1900s and after Lazarus' death, one of her friends began a campaign to memorialize Lazarus and her *New Colossus* sonnet. The effort was a success, and a plaque with the poem's text was mounted inside the pedestal of the statue.

## Statue of Liberty Poem

Also known as the Statue of Liberty poem, *New Colossus* and its famous last lines have become part of American history. Here is the sonnet in its entirety:

### The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of  
Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride  
from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset  
gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch,  
whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and  
her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her  
beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,*



*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

### **Statue of Liberty Inscription**



Since Lazarus' poem was mounted on a plaque, it is not actually inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. The only Statue of Liberty inscription can be found on the tablet in her left hand, which says JULY IV MDCCLXXVI (July 4, 1776), the day the United States adopted the Declaration of Independence.

### **History of the Statue of Liberty**

The Statue of Liberty was originally known as Liberty



Enlightening the World. It was given to the United States by France to celebrate their alliance during the Revolutionary War. A sculptor by the name of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi designed the statue, and Gustave Eiffel (the man who designed the Eiffel Tower) was responsible for the iron framework underneath the copper plating.

The statue was built in Paris and then shipped to the U.S. in 1885. Various parts of the statue were on display throughout Paris as they were completed. Miss Liberty's head was exhibited in the gardens at the Tracadóro, and her torch was on display as well, as you can observe in the images on this page.



### **When was the Statue of Liberty built?**

history of the statue of liberty in pieces Construction began in 1875 and was not completed until 1884. Crews worked round the clock, seven days a week, for nine years to finish the Statue of Liberty. When it was complete in 1885, the statue was disassembled into 350 pieces, shipped to New York City, and reassembled. It took 4 months just to put the Statue of Liberty together again!

The Statue of Liberty was officially dedicated and unveiled on October 28, 1886.

### **How much did the Statue of**



## **Liberty cost to build?**

A collection was taken up in France to fund the statue, raising 2,250,000 francs (\$250,000 U.S. dollars). It doesn't look like much, but \$250,000 in the 19th century would be the same as millions of dollars today. Both the U.S. and France participated in fundraising activities, and it took a very long time to raise enough money to finish construction.