

# THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

# Unit 14

*What do you see in the picture?*

*What does the statue have in its hand?*

*Have you ever visited the Statue of Liberty?*

One of the most famous statues in the world stands on an island in New York Harbor. This statue is, of course, the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty is a woman who holds a torch up high. Visitors can go inside the statue. The statue is so large that as many as twelve people can stand inside the torch. Many more people can stand in other parts of the statue. The statue weighs 225 tons and is 301 feet tall.

The Statue of Liberty was put up in 1886. It was a gift to the United States from the people of France. Over the years France and the United States had a special relationship. In 1776 France helped the American colonies gain independence from England. The French wanted to do something special for the U.S. centennial, its 100th birthday.

Laboulaye was a well-known Frenchman who admired the United States. One night at a dinner in his house, Laboulaye talked about the idea of a gift. Among Laboulaye's guests was the French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. Bartholdi thought of a statue of liberty. He offered to design the statue.

Many people contributed in some way. The French people gave money for the statue. Americans designed and built the pedestal for the statue to stand on. The American people raised money to pay for the pedestal. The French engineer Alexander Eiffel, who was famous for his Eiffel Tower in Paris, figured out how to make the heavy statue stand.

In the years after the statue was put up, many immigrants came to the United States through New York. As they entered New York Harbor, they saw the Statue of Liberty holding up her torch. She symbolized a welcome to a land of freedom.



## VOCABULARY

**Complete the sentences. Circle the letter of the correct answer.**

1. The people of France wanted to give the United States a special \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. gift  
b. torch
2. France and the United States had a special \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. independence  
b. relationship
3. France helped the American colonies \_\_\_\_\_ independence.  
a. build  
b. gain
4. A famous Frenchman, Laboulaye, \_\_\_\_\_ the United States.  
a. admired  
b. visited
5. Frédéric Bartholdi \_\_\_\_\_ to design the statue.  
a. contributed  
b. offered
6. The Statue of Liberty stands on a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. pedestal  
b. harbor

## COMPREHENSION

### A. Looking for Main Ideas

**Circle the letter of the best answer.**

1. The Statue of Liberty is a famous statue in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. France  
b. the United States
2. The Statue of Liberty was a gift \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. from the people of France to the United States  
b. from Laboulaye and Eiffel to the United States
3. The Statue of Liberty symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a woman with a torch  
b. a land of freedom

## B. Looking for Details

Circle T if the sentence is true. Circle F if the sentence is false.

	True	False
1. Twelve people can stand inside the torch of the Statue of Liberty.	T	F
2. The United States helped France gain its independence in 1776.	T	F
3. Alexander Eiffel was among the guests at Laboulaye's house.	T	F
4. Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was a French engineer.	T	F
5. Alexander Eiffel figured out how to make the statue stand.	T	F
6. Americans designed the pedestal for the statue.	T	F

## GRAMMAR

Complete the sentences with the correct article. Use *a* or *the*. If no article is necessary, write *X*.

EXAMPLE: The statue stands on an island in X New York Harbor.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Statue of \_\_\_\_\_ Liberty was \_\_\_\_\_ gift to \_\_\_\_\_ United States from \_\_\_\_\_ people of \_\_\_\_\_ France.
- Over \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ France and \_\_\_\_\_ United States had \_\_\_\_\_ special relationship.
- In \_\_\_\_\_ 1776 \_\_\_\_\_ France helped \_\_\_\_\_ American colonies gain \_\_\_\_\_ independence from \_\_\_\_\_ England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ French paid for \_\_\_\_\_ statue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ American people paid for \_\_\_\_\_ pedestal.

## DISCUSSION

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. What other famous statues or monuments can you think of?
2. When we think of New York, we think of the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. List five other cities and the buildings, statues, and places they make you think of.
3. Do you have any famous statues or monuments in your country? What are they?