



BEACON OF LIBERTY

INTRODUCTION

After our flag, the Statue of Liberty is the second most evocative symbol of what the United States of America stands for. Our history as a nation is all about the struggle to provide increasing liberty to more of our citizens.

From our earliest beginnings we saw ourselves as a “shining city on a hill,” a beacon of liberty for other nations to emulate. *The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World* holding her torch aloft is the physical manifestation of that ideal.

For many years Liberty and her torch served as the focal point for immigrants seeking their fortune in the new world, coming to America for a better life for themselves and their families. They left the oppressions of their old life behind for the freedom that America offered.

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French people to the American people. The French people paid for the statue itself while the Americans paid for the pedestal the statue stood on. Over 120,000 people in the United States donated funds for the pedestal with 80% of them donating less than a dollar -- a great example of how widespread American generosity is and our devotion to Liberty.

BOOK

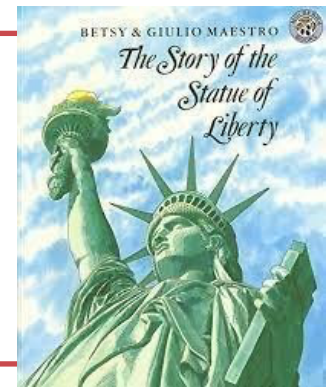
Title: *The Story of the Statue of Liberty*

Author: Betsy Maestro

Illustrator: Giulio Maestro

Year published: 1989

Length: 48 pages



ACTIVITY	TIME	FREQUENCY	PREPARATION
American Songbook: <i>My Country 'Tis of Thee</i>	5 minutes	Daily	Minimal
Memorize: <i>The New Colossus</i>	5-10 minutes	Daily	Minimal
Political Geography: America & France	15 minutes	Once	Minimal (if you have puzzle, globe)
Arts & Crafts: Coloring; Connect-the-Dots	10-20 minutes	Once	Minimal
Science: Oxidation	20 minutes	Once	10 minutes
Science: Virtual Tour of Statue Interior	10-15 minutes	Once	Minimal
Re-enactment: Be Your Own Statue of Liberty	20 minutes	Once	30 minutes (to make the crown)
Civic Culture: Religion	10 minutes	Once	Minimal
Civic Culture: Generosity	10 minutes	Once	Minimal
History: Symbolism	10 minutes	Once	Minimal
Language Arts: Fact vs. Fiction	10 minutes	Once	Minimal
Language Arts: Vocabulary	10 minutes	Once	Minimal
Games: Transporting Statue of Liberty	10-20 minutes	Once	Minimal



Below is one suggestion for your week with *The Story of the Statue of Liberty*. While normally we suggest the re-enactment in the middle of the week, this is the rare occasion where we started with it. Yes Moms, this is your chance to play dress-up! Note that we did not include all of the activities above in the agenda below (only 10 of 13). Please experiment with what works for your family!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Re-enactment: Be Your Own Statue of Liberty	Political Geography: America & France	L.A.: Vocabulary (before reading)	Civic Culture: Generosity	Arts & Crafts: Coloring, Connect-the-Dots
Songbook: <i>America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)</i>	Memorize: <i>The New Colossus</i>	Science: Oxidation	L.A.: Fact vs. Fiction	History: Symbolism
Supplies: Sheet, Flashlight, Headband, Foil	Supplies: U.S. Puzzle, Globe	Supplies: Pennies, Bowl, Vinegar, Salt, Towel	Supplies: Two add'l Statue of Liberty books	Supplies: Crayons, Pencil Coins

AMERICAN HERITAGE SONGBOOK: AMERICA (MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE)

Samuel Francis Smith wrote the lyrics to *America* when he was a seminary student in 1831. He used the melody from the British national anthem, *God Save the Queen*. The song was a strong contender for the national anthem of the United States of America but, in 1931, Congress chose the *Star-Spangled Banner* instead.

The song’s opening lyrics celebrate America as the “sweet land of liberty” with the first verse ending with the uplifting call to “let freedom ring!”

My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my fathers died;
Land of the pilgrims’ pride
From ev’ry mountainside
Let Freedom Ring!

The last verse evokes America’s deep religious culture as well as Smith’s theological background as it calls on God’s protection and blessing:

Our fathers’ God to thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom’s Holy light,





Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sings it with lyrics set against wonderful images of America [here](#). Kelly Clarkson's 2013 version, with lyrics and images, is [here](#). Marian Anderson, a famous contralto, was denied permission to sing in front of an integrated audience by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Instead, Eleanor Roosevelt arranged for her to [sing America to a crowd of 75,000 in front of the Lincoln Memorial](#) on Easter Sunday, 1939. Millions more heard her perform live on the radio. Finally, an elegant version of the first verse was arranged by Michael Hedges and [sung by David Crosby & Graham Nash](#) immediately after 9/11.

FAMOUS AMERICAN TEXTS: THE NEW COLOSSUS

As part of the fundraising effort to erect the pedestal for *The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World*, Emma Lazarus wrote a sonnet called *The New Colossus*. The poem was published in both Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and the *New York Times*, initially enjoying wide popularity. Lazarus died the year after the Statue of Liberty was erected and the poem faded from popular memory until a friend of hers rescued it from obscurity in 1901. The poem is now inscribed on a plaque mounted on the pedestal.

Lazarus's poem celebrates Liberty as the "Mother of Exiles," a symbol of hope for immigrants seeking a new opportunity. The most famous line has Liberty saying, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Read the poem to your child(ren). Point out to them the [rhyming scheme](#) and how it starts out "ABBA" but changes at the end to "CDCDCD" when Liberty starts speaking.

Ask them to memorize the famous line from the poem, in bold below. Practice each day after reading the story to them.

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-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY: AMERICA & FRANCE

When the Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York’s harbor in 1886, the United States had grown to 38 states. Colorado was the most recent, joining the union in 1876. The 12 territories yet to become states were: North Dakota (1889), South Dakota (1889), Montana (1889), Washington (1889), Idaho (1890), Wyoming (1890), Utah (1896), Oklahoma (1907), New Mexico (1912), Arizona (1912), Alaska (1959), Hawaii (1959).

Take your jigsaw puzzle map of the United States and remove all the states that have not yet joined the union. Alternatively, take a map of the United States and color in the states that are part of the Union. Label the sheet “1886.”

The country of France played a crucial role in America’s War of Independence from Great Britain. At that time, France was also at war with Great Britain so it made strategic sense for them to ally with America. However, the gift of the Statue of Liberty from the people of France to the people of America had no such geopolitical strategic goals. In fact, the project was initiated by private individuals, (Frederic Bartholdi, Edouard de Laboulaye), just to express their love of liberty and the friendship between two peoples in honor of America’s centennial.

Locate France on a globe and show your child(ren) how the Statue of Liberty had to be transported across the Atlantic Ocean in order to reach its destination in New York.

ARTS & CRAFTS: COLORING

As usual, our kids loved [coloring](#) and [connect-the-dots](#) sheets featuring the [Statue of Liberty](#).

SCIENCE: OXIDATION

Both *The Story of the Statue of Liberty* and *Her Right Foot* describe how the Statue of Liberty is made from copper and started out brown, gradually changing to the bluish-green color we know today after decades of oxidation. Her copper covering is approximately the width of two pennies, which leads to our science demonstration. We will speed up the process of oxidation and turn a brown penny bluish-green in just a couple of hours.

For [this demonstration](#) you will need:



Supplies:

- Pennies
- Vinegar
- Salt
- Paper towels
- Bowls

Directions:

1. Pour vinegar into one bowl and water into a second bowl. Add salt to the bowl with vinegar.
2. Place pennies into both bowls. Observe what happens. (The pennies in the vinegar should turn nice and shiny. The pennies in water remain unchanged).
3. Remove the pennies. Fold a paper towel into quarters and then soak it in the vinegar/salt solution. Place your pennies on top of the paper towel. With exposure to the oxygen in the air, your young scientists should start to see the pennies turning bluish-green in a couple of hours -- this is oxidation! (You may need to re-moisten the paper towel with your vinegar/salt solution periodically to keep the reaction going.)

As an additional control, we included nickels with the pennies. We thought we would demonstrate the difference between copper and nickel. Our expectation was that the nickel would not be oxidized. To our surprise, we learned that nickels are actually made up of 75% copper. It oxidized and turned bluish-green just as readily as the pennies. Ah, the serendipity of science :-)



SCIENCE: TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

The Statue of Liberty is an engineering marvel. Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the man who later built the Eiffel Tower, developed her internal skeleton which supports the weight of her tons of copper sheathing. You can see some of this in person if you can visit the Statue of Liberty in New York. But much of the internal structure is not open to the public. The National Park Service created [a fascinating virtual tour](#) that shows many of the internals of the Statue of Liberty (as well as the externals). You start at the top, Liberty's Torch!

HISTORICAL REENACTMENT: BE YOUR OWN STATUE OF LIBERTY

This activity was fairly spontaneous and turned into a huge hit with the kids. One of their aunts suggested including more dress-up and costumes as part of the activities. As we were just about to launch this module, we challenged her to put together a Statue of Liberty outfit and do the first reading in it. As you can see below, she rose to the challenge with the help of a sheet, a flashlight, a book and a handmade crown (headband and foil). (Yes, to our surprise, we actually owned a bluish-green sheet that worked perfectly; however, a brown, pre-oxidation sheet, would have also worked nicely :-). The kids loved it and afterwards both wanted to dress up as Liberty (tip: you might want to remove the batteries for three-year-olds, ours had trouble holding up the flashlight). Liberty's Torch is more dramatic if done at night with the lights off.





CIVIC CULTURE: RELIGION

The Statue of Liberty, with her torch held high welcoming immigrants to America, evokes the enduring theme of “America is a shining city on a hill, whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere,” as President Ronald Reagan described us. President John F. Kennedy made a similar allusion before Reagan, as have many other politicians from both major parties. You can trace this back to John Winthrop, who wrote in 1630, “For we must consider that we shall be as a city on a hill, the eyes of all shall be upon us,” as he travelled to the New World as part of the Puritan Hegira. The Biblical scripture that inspired Winthrop was most probably from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:14-



16: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can not be hidden." Share this scripture with your child(ren); consider using it as an alternate memorization exercise to the line from the Lazarus poem.

CIVIC CULTURE: GENEROSITY

Tens of thousands of people donated funds for the Statue of Liberty and her pedestal -- including many children. Remind your child(ren) of this and then discuss with them some of the areas/causes where you donate your time or money. For older children, think about engaging them in your annual giving by asking them if there are any areas where they would like to give. They may be interested in causes associated with children, like [Stanford Children's Hospital](#) or [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#).

HISTORY: SYMBOLISM

Liberty was one of the most popular symbols of America long before the Statue of Liberty was conceived. All of our coins not only had the word Liberty inscribed on them but also featured a figure of Liberty herself up until the Lincoln penny was introduced in 1909. Show your children some old coins (or pictures of old coins) to illustrate how far back this symbolism goes. Then show them pictures of the new bullion coins that were introduced in 1986 that revived some of the best Liberty coinage designs of the past.





Extend the exercise by asking your child(ren) to think of words that symbolize your own family. How would you symbolize those? Coat of Arms? Ask them to draw pictures of the symbols for your family.

Ask them if there are any other important symbols of the United States. (Flag, Eagle, Liberty Bell) Can they think of any other important symbols? (What does the cross symbolize to Christians?)

LANGUAGE ARTS: FACT VS. FICTION, LIBERTY'S JOURNEY AND HER RIGHT FOOT

The Story of the Statue of Liberty provides a great history of how the Statue of Liberty was built, from the inspiration, the fundraising, the transport, to its dedication in New York Harbor. *Liberty's Journey* (by Kelly DiPucchio and Richard Egielski) is a fun supplement, telling the story of how Liberty decides to explore our great country by going for a walk from sea to shining sea (and back again, once she received the letter begging her to return from the people of New York). We used this as a springboard to discuss fact vs. fiction, comparing the two stories. Our three-year-old enjoyed the discussion and was able to distinguish between the two.

Her Right Foot (by Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris) is another great (non-fiction) story about the Statue of Liberty. Eggers recounts the history of the Statue of Liberty. But he then goes on to point out something about Liberty that very few people notice: her right foot is clearly in mid-stride. Liberty is on the move!


LANGUAGE ARTS: VOCABULARY

The author uses a number of words associated with erecting a gigantic statue that your child(ren) may not be familiar with: skeleton, copper, pedestal, unveiled, immigrants. Try introducing a couple of new words each day. Before you start reading, introduce the words you've selected for the day, define them, and then point them out during the reading.

- **Skeleton:** a supporting framework for a building, ship, statue, or body
 - **Copper:** a reddish-brown metal that is easy to shape
 - **Pedestal:** a supporting structure or base
 - **Unveiled:** revealed; remove a covering like a curtain from a work of art
 - **Immigrants:** people who move to another country
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GAMES: TRANSPORTING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

One of the amazing aspects of the history of the Statue of Liberty is how it was built twice, first in France and then in America. You can have some fun simulating this remarkable achievement with the help of [a jigsaw puzzle](#). Ideally the puzzle would feature the Statue of Liberty, however, any puzzle will work.

A colorful illustration in the bottom right corner shows a hand holding a grey jigsaw puzzle piece. The hand is rendered in shades of orange and red. The background features several large, stylized stars in various colors like purple, pink, and yellow.

Our kids love jigsaw puzzles, so this activity works on a couple of levels. First, they enjoy putting the puzzle together. Then, they simulate crossing the Atlantic Ocean and reassembling the puzzle. You can use any barrier in your home as the Atlantic Ocean -- a hallway separating rooms, stairs, a carpet. But the idea is that after assembling the puzzle in one location (France), they must transport it in chunks to another location (America), and then reassemble it. Ask your young engineers to brainstorm multiple ways to transport the “statue” (puzzle) from one “country” to another. Labeling the two locations with the appropriate country helps drive the lesson home.

