



# DVD Learning Guide

## The Statue of Liberty

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Vocabulary from the Film  
Discussion Questions based on Film Content  
Lesson Plans and Activities  
Related Books and Online Resources



## Ken Burns America Collection: The Statue Of Liberty (1985, 2000) A Homeschool Learning Network® Learning Guide

**Format:** DVD  
**Age Levels:** Middle School, High School  
**Genre:** Documentary  
**Category:** History : America's Beginnings  
**Rating:** Not Rated  
**Length:** 60 minutes  
**Producer:** PBS DVD Video, Ken Burns, Buddy Squires  
**Warnings:** No warnings.

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### Summary

*Ken Burns America Collection: The Statue Of Liberty* is a compelling portrait of America's premier symbol of Liberty and Freedom. The history of the Statue of Liberty from conception to fruition is told using the words of the people who were instrumental in creating this gift from France of the celebration of America's promise of Liberty for all. Included are interviews with Americans from all walks of life, including former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo, Congress woman Barbara Jordan, and immigrants whose first contact with their new home was the Statue of Liberty. These interviews examine the nature of liberty and the importance of the statue to American Life. Pictures and editorials of the era give a sense of the sentiment of the times regarding the Statue and its significance to the world.

### Vocabulary (Grades 6-12)

Try the following activities with the vocabulary words to the right. Depending on the age and ability of your students, they may be able to complete assignments from multiple grade levels.

- 6-8:** Write a description or review about this DVD using the vocabulary words. Above each vocabulary word, write N if it is a noun, V if it is a verb; ADJ if it is an adjective; ADV if it is an adverb.
- 6-12:** Copy the vocabulary words onto a sheet of paper. What do you think each word means? Write down what you think the words mean from your own knowledge. Now, look up each word in a dictionary, and compare definitions. How close were you? Write each word in a sentence, or write a paragraph or DVD summary using the words.

#### Vocabulary

pedestal  
immigrant  
engineer  
monument  
liberty  
copper  
symbol  
freedom  
democracy  
gateway



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**9-12:** Write down words you hear in the video you don't understand. Break the words into parts and see if you can determine the meanings. Look up the meanings.



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## Discussion Questions

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*Ask students to read through their questions carefully before watching the film, and take notes during the film. After watching it, ask students to write their answers to the following questions on a separate piece of paper.*

*Learning Styles:* Auditory, Verbal

*Intelligences:* Verbal/Linguistic, Interpersonal

### Intermediate

1. Who designed the Statue of Liberty?
2. What was the reason for the Statue of Liberty being given to America?
3. Who gave America the gift of the Statue of Liberty?
4. What does the statue of Liberty mean to you?
5. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
6. What did the Statue of Liberty signify to immigrants arriving in America?
7. Who paid for the Statue of Liberty to be built? Who is responsible for it's maintenance?
8. Why is America special? What does America have that some other countries do not?
9. Was everyone happy with the Statue of Liberty? Why or why not?

### Advanced

1. Who was the architect of the Statue? What was his motivation to create the statue?
2. What is a symbol? What is the Statue of Liberty a symbol of to some Americans?
3. Why is freedom important to immigrants? Why is it important to you?
4. Why is the base of the statue shaped like a star?
5. What is the Statue of Liberty made with? How does it withstand the forces of nature?



## Lessons & Activities

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### **Title**            **Coming To America: The Immigrants**

**Subjects:**    History

**Grades:**     5-12

**Style:**        Visual/Auditory/Experiential/Kinesthetic

### **Concepts:**

Learn why some people came to America from other countries and what they hoped to find here. Learn what the Statue of Liberty meant to some of the immigrants to America.

### **Lesson:**

For many people in other countries, America holds the promise of a new, better life for them and their families, and is known as the land of freedom from fear and tyranny. Many people in other countries aren't allowed to do what they want, dress as they want, vote for government leaders or practice their religion without fear of punishment from the government of their own country. These people are willing to give up nearly everything they know and come to an unknown new world to try to start a life in a country where they have the freedom to vote, worship and live the way they want. For some who arrive in New York City, the Statue of Liberty holds a light of welcome to them from America. It is a bold symbol of the American dream of freedom and liberty. Those who never see the statue in person are still aware of it and what it stands for.

### **Grades 5-8 Activities:**

- Go on a journey in this ThinkQuest Entry: <http://library.thinkquest.org/20619/Intro.html>. Learn about the different countries immigrants came from, and see a timeline of immigration history and read stories from immigrants to America. More can be learned at :
- [http://www.gliah.uh.edu/historyonline/ethnic\\_am.cfm](http://www.gliah.uh.edu/historyonline/ethnic_am.cfm)
- Ask someone you know who was an immigrant what it was like for him or her in their old country and how their life was changed by coming to America. Find out when your own family came to America. Write a journal entry describing what you learned.
- Write a creative fiction entitled "When I came to America." Describe your feelings upon leaving your homeland and coming to a new land. What do you think you would be hoping for? Be sure to include the reasons that you immigrated.

### **Grades 9-12 Activities:**

- Using the resources listed above, construct a presentation on Immigration to America in easy-to-understand terms. You can write an outline and report, or create a PowerPoint presentation.

Research the timeline of immigration and include some examples of mass immigration, noting in your report what caused each group to come to America.

- Research how the Statue of Liberty was created, and how it was transported to the United States. Make a scaled model of the Statue of Liberty out of modeling clay or other craft materials. Include a fact sheet with the true dimensions and measurements of the Statue of Liberty.
- Read the poem *The New Colossus* at <http://www.libertystatepark.com/emma.htm> Create a report that tells what you think the author meant by the poem, and whether or not you think the same sentiment holds true in America today. Give some examples that prove your theory.

## Additional Lessons and Activities for Your Child's Learning Style

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### Visual (seeing)

- Look around the place where you live. Are there any symbols in your area? What do they symbolize? What do they mean to you? What did they mean to the people who made them?
- Imagine that you are visiting the Statue of Liberty. What sights do you see? What does the view from Liberty Island look like? Name some of the landmarks you might recognize.

### Auditory (hearing)

- The statue of liberty is on an island near a very busy port city. What sounds do you think immigrants heard when they arrived in New York and went past the statue on their ships?
- Have someone read the poem *The New Colossus* aloud. How should it be read? Is it a poem that sounds uplifting or strong?

### Experiential (feeling, internalizing)

- How would you feel if you had left your homeland and set off for a strange new land where you didn't know anyone? Would you be excited or frightened? Explain why.
- What is the most compelling reason for leaving the land you were born in? What other reasons would make you move away from your home country?

### Kinesthetic (movement and tactile)

- Using the following resources, find out Where in the World is **The Statue Of Liberty**? Use a map to identify where the park is. Draw a map of New York City, then a map of Liberty State Park.
  - o Map – Liberty State Park <http://www.libertystatepark.com/lspmap.htm>
  - o Map – New York City <http://www.americanparknetwork.com/parkinfo/sl/images/map2.jpg>



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- Create a model of Liberty Island using modeling clay and other materials. Include a Statue of Liberty, and footpaths, etc. Research what the Statue of Liberty is made of and paint your statue accordingly. Inscribe the correct date on the book in Liberty's hand. Include a fact sheet that gives a timeline of the history of the Statue, and its dimensions.

## Learn More! Books and Online Resources

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### BOOKS

Quiri, Patricia Ryon; *The Statue of Liberty (True Books, American Symbols)* Children's Press 1998; ISBN: 0516263854; (Ages 9-12)

Maestro, Giulio; *The Story of the Statue of Liberty* Mulberry Books 1989; ISBN: 0688087469; (Ages 4-8)

Moreno, Barry; *The Statue of Liberty Encyclopedia* Simon & Schuster 2000; ISBN: 0684862271; (all ages)

Harris, Jonathan; *A Statue for America: The First 100 Years of the Statue of Liberty* Simon & Schuster 1986; ASIN: 0027427307 (age 9+)

Danforth, Kimberly; *Coming to America: The Kids' Book About Immigration* Waterfront Books 1999; ASIN: 0914525239; (Ages 4-8)

Scholastic; *Coming to America (Dear America)* Scholastic Trade 2002; ISBN: 0439129400; Boxed edition

Moss, Marissa; *Hannah's Journal: The Story of an Immigrant Girl (Young American Voices)* Silver Whistle; ISBN: 0152021558 2000; (Ages 9-12)

Yans-McLaughlin, Virginia; *Ellis Island and the Peopling of America: The Official Guide* New Press 1997; ISBN: 1565843649

### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### Selected Views of the Statue of Liberty

[http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/077\\_stat.html](http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/077_stat.html)

Photographs of the Statue of Liberty

#### Liberty State Park Official Website

<http://www.libertystatepark.com/>

Information about Liberty State Park and Ellis Island



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## **Satellite image of Statue of Liberty**

[http://www.spaceimaging.com/gallery/ioweeek/archive/iow070101/statue\\_of\\_liberty\\_1280.jpg](http://www.spaceimaging.com/gallery/ioweeek/archive/iow070101/statue_of_liberty_1280.jpg)

View the statue from Space!

## **Biography: Frederic Bartholdi, the creator of the Statue of Liberty**

[http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Frederic\\_Bartholdi.html](http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Frederic_Bartholdi.html)

Read about the artist and sculptor whose dream resulted in the Statue of Liberty.

## **Biography: Gustave Eiffel, the Engineer of the Statue of Liberty**

[http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Gustave\\_Eiffel.html](http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Gustave_Eiffel.html)

Read about the architect responsible for the structural engineering of the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower.

## **Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Ferry**

<http://www.statueoflibertyferry.com/>

Information about the History of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and travel information.

## **ThinkQuest Statue of Liberty.**

<http://tgjunior.thinkquest.org/5102/index.htm>

Entry about a school visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

## **Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island Immigration Museum**

<http://www.nychistory.org/statlibt.htm>

Learn about the Statue and Ellis Island History.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY:

### Intermediate

1. Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (Sculptor), Richard Morris Hunt (Architect of the base) and Alexandre Gustave Eiffel (Engineer)
2. The statue was a gift from commemorating liberty and friendship with the United States.
3. France. The people of France raised money to pay for the statue.
4. Answers will vary.
5. The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, New York City, New York State, United States of America.
6. The Statue of Liberty was a symbol welcoming immigrants to their new homeland.
7. The French had a lottery that raised 600,000 francs to pay for the statue. Private donation also raised funds for the statue.
8. America is a free country in which people are free to choose their own religion, their government representatives and to improve their lives. Some countries do not have these freedoms.
9. Some people thought the statue was offensive, and/or too expensive, and some people didn't want to pay for the upkeep of the statue and the land it was on.

### Advanced

1. The sculptor Frederic Bartholdi, of France, wanted to create a statue of Liberty enlightening the world, because France at the time did not have much personal liberty for its citizens. He wanted to give the statue to Egypt, to commemorate the opening of the Suez Canal, but was turned down. He next offered it to America to celebrate it's 100 years of Freedom and democracy.
2. A symbol is something that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention, especially a material object used to represent something invisible. The Statue of Liberty represents freedom from fear and tyranny, and also signifies the welcoming philosophy of America to immigrants.
3. Many of the countries immigrants came from did not have the freedom of choice that most people would want, and hoped to find in America. Answers will vary.
4. The Statue of Liberty pedestal was built on the remains of an old fort, Fort Wood, which had six pointed ramparts.
5. The statue was built from an innovative framework of steel covered with individually shaped and hung sheets of copper. The copper was shaped by molding it against a wood frame with hammers. Skilled craftsmen did all the work on the statue, by hand. The nature of the structure of braces and beams with the individually fixed copper sheets is able to stretch and move slightly with the wind, which keeps it from breaking apart.

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- 1776
- Abraham & Mary Lincoln, A House Divided Disc 1 - 3
- Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery (Disc 1, 2)
- Air Force One: Planes and the Presidents - Flight II
- Alamo, The
- America Remembers: Events of Sept. 11 & America's Response
- Area 51: America's Most Secret Base
- Founding Brothers - Disc 1, 2
- Founding Fathers - Disc 1, 2
- Keeping the Promise
- Ken Burns America Collection: The Statue Of Liberty
- Mafia: The History of the Mob in America - Disc 1,2
- National Geographic Beyond the Movie: Pearl Harbor
- National Geographic: Lewis & Clark The Great Journey West
- Roots, Episodes 1-6
- The 11th of September
- The Birth of a Nation
- The Men Who Killed Kennedy - Disc 1, 2
- The Real West - Disc 1, 2
- The Speeches Collection-Vol 1: John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr, Gerald Ford & Ronald Reagan (Disc 1 & 2)
- Why the Towers Fell
- World Trade Center In Memoriam
- Ancient Civilizations: Athens and Ancient Greece
- Ancient Civilizations: Rome and Pompeii
- Ancient Civilizations: The Land of the Pharaohs
- Ancient Mysteries: Myths and Legends (Movie Disc 1 & 2)
- Cleopatra Disc 1 & 2
- Cleopatra, The First Woman of Power
- Egypt, Beyond the Pyramids - Disc 1, 2
- Egypt: Quest for Eternity
- Egypt: Secrets of the Pharaohs
- Gladiators: Bloodsport of the Colosseum
- Imax: Mysteries of Egypt
- Imax: Mystery of the Maya
- Rome: Power and Glory, Volume I & II
- The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization
- The Mystery of Egypt
- The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- A Brilliant Madness
- Amelia Earhart: The Price of Courage
- Elizabeth - Disc 1-3
- Gandhi
- General Douglas MacArthur
- Ken Burns: Mark Twain
- Patton
- Shackleton - Discs 1-3
- Shaka Zulu (Discs 1-4)
- The American Experience: FDR Part 1, 2
- The American Experience: Ike
- The American Experience: LBJ
- The American Experience: Nixon
- The American Experience: Reagan Part 1, 2
- The American Experience: The Kennedys
- The Directors: Steven Spielberg
- The Indomitable Teddy Roosevelt
- Thomas Jefferson
- Ulysses S. Grant: Warrior & President
- Coca-Cola: The History of an American Icon
- Gold! The History of Man's Greatest Obsession - Disc 1, 2
- Great Planes!: Boeing 747 & 777
- Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media
- National Geographic: Surviving Everest
- Standard Deviants: Rings, Kings & Things
- The Magic of Flight
- Titanic: The Complete Story - Disc 1, 2
- Airborne: Under Eastern Skies, Destination Berlin
- Amazing Tales of Wartime Escapes
- America and the Holocaust
- Band of Brothers Disc 1, 2
- Beyond Barbed Wire
- Heroes of Iwo Jima
- Saving Private Ryan
- Secrets of War: Spy Games of World War II
- The Battle for Midway
- The Battle of Britain
- The Battle of the Bulge: World War II's Deadliest Battle
- The Great Escapes of WWII - Disc 1, 2
- The Longest Day
- The Navajo Code Talkers
- Vietnam's Unseen War Pictures from the Other Side
- Crusades - Disc 1, 2
- Elizabeth R
- Encyclopedia of the 20th Century:
  - Days That Shook the World -- 1900 -1919
  - Days that Shook the World -- 1960-1979
  - Days that Shook the World-1920-1939
- Great Wonders of the World, Discs 1, 2
- Ivanhoe - Disc 1,2
- The Discoverers
- The Six Wives of Henry VIII, Volumes I - III