

The Statue of Liberty

by Ms. Carr's Fifth Grade Class

Jackson Road Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD

Based on the book Amazing Buildings by Philip Wilkinson

All Yeah! Whoopie!

1 Remind me again why we're here in New York celebrating?

2 (Sigh) To celebrate the 100th anniversary of American independence.

3 What's that--the 100th time you've told her that today?

1 Oh yeah! NOW I remember!

4 Remember in school when we were talking about American independence?

1 No. I must have been asleep that day.

All Well, you should have paid attention!

4 The French people presented the United States of America with

All The Statue of Liberty

4 in 1884.

1 Hmmmmm...Ye--no!

5 It was a token of friendship for us all,

All The U.S.A.

1 Oh, silly me.

6 Isn't she beautiful? She is stepping out of chains and the seven spikes upon her crown stand for the seven continents and seven seas.

7 Yeah, and she holds the torch of freedom.

1 A free dome? Where?

7 No--freedom--as in liberty.

1 Oh.

8 She's one of the world's tallest statues.

1 How long did it take to build her--15 years?

9 Actually, yes. It did take 15 years.

1 Really? How did you know that?

All We know even more!

10 The French started making her in 1870 and finished in 1885.

5 They raised the money through the lotteries and dinner parties.

3 Okay all you smart people, then who is Frederic Bartholdi?

1 Frederic, Frederic, who is he?

All Another important person, you see.
He designed the Statue of Liberty!
This building weighed 32 tons.
It took them years to get it done.
So he's the creator of Liberty--
The famous Frederic Bartholdi!

1, 3 Right.

2 Hey look! All the way up on the top of Lady Liberty is a torch that shines brightly!

3 Is the torch really made of fire?

4 No. It has lights that reflect off mirrors and light up the torch.

5 So no one has to climb the stairs to light the torch.

6 There's a staircase?

5 Yeah, a 110 foot metal staircase inside the statue.

6 Wow, that's a lot.

5 It takes 171 steps to reach the top.

6 I'd rather take an elevator.

7 Well, you can! There is a glass elevator that takes you to the top of the base.

8 Does anybody know how big the Statue of Liberty's nose is?

9 I do. 3 feet 3 inches long.

All Wow! Talk about Pinocchio!

10 And her eyes are 2 feet, 6 inches across!

All The better to see you with, my dear!

3 Her mouth is 3 feet 5 inches wide.

All Talk about "The Mouth of the South!"

8 Well, not the south. We're in New York, remember?

7 How high up is her crown?

All 306 feet, 8 inches off the ground.

2 But the statue herself is just 152 feet 2 inches.

3 Right, because she stands on a pretty big pedestal.

All Well, now do you know enough?

1 I'm not quite done with my Social Studies. I need some help with my math and...

All About the Statue of Liberty?

1 Ohhhhh. Yeah. I guess that's enough for today!

All Happy Anniversary, Lady Liberty!