

*Kids & Schools Tools*

*The Statue of Liberty, New York City, U.S.A.*

The Statue of Liberty is one of the 21 finalist candidates in the campaign to choose the New 7 Wonders of the World. The winners of this unique vote will be announced on July 7, 2007 – 07.07.07 and will become part of history. They will be recognized as monuments that have truly global meaning—they are part of our common cultural heritage. We can all be proud of the 21 finalists, since each of them is a unique monument that belongs to its particular culture and country in a very special way.

“Liberty Enlightening the World,” known more commonly as the Statue of Liberty, was a gift of the French government to the United States in the late 19th century to honor the ideals of freedom and independence. She became a symbol of hope and freedom for the millions of immigrants to the U.S. seeking a new life of peace and prosperity. It is the New7Wonders candidate that most closely resembles one of the Ancient 7 Wonders—the Colossus of Rhodes.

The copper statue on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, dedicated on October 28, 1886, commemorated the centennial of the United States and the friendship between the two nations established during the American Revolution. The sculptor was Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and Gustave Eiffel, the designer of the Eiffel Tower, engineered the internal supporting structure. The statue was a joint effort between America and France—the American people built the pedestal and the French were responsible for the statue and its assembly. It was completed in France in July 1884 and arrived, as 350 individual pieces packed in 214 crates, in New York in June 1885 on board the French frigate "Iserre." The Statue was re-assembled on her new pedestal in four months' time. On October 28, 1886, the dedication of the Statue of Liberty took place in front of thousands of spectators. She was a centennial gift ten years late.

“Lady Liberty” holds a torch in her right hand and a tablet in her left, marked July 4, 1776, the date of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. One of her feet stands on chains, symbolizing the acquired freedom, and the seven spikes in her crown represent the seven seas and seven continents. The height, to the top of the torch, is 93 meters (305 ft); including the foundation and pedestal. The statue, built of thin copper plates hammered into wooden forms through a process known as repoussé, with the plates then mounted onto a steel skeleton, weighs 204 tons and the pedestal 24,500 tons.

The poem “The New Colossus,” by Emma Lazarus, was engraved in 1903 on a bronze plaque in the museum in the base of the statue. Its famous final lines read: *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!*

**The Statue of Liberty is a great symbol of Generosity & Hope!**



If you want to find out more about the exciting campaign to name the New 7 Wonders of the World, please go to the New7Wonders website at [www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com).

**07.07.07**

**Official Declaration of the New 7 Wonders of the World**

**... be part of the making of history!**

[www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com)