

# STATUE OF LIBERTY TEACHER'S GUIDE TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Grades 1 and 2



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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ellis Island Immigration Museum  
Statue of Liberty National Monument  
New Jersey/New York



# Dear Teacher,

Congratulations and thank you for booking an education program with the National Park Service at the Statue of Liberty! This Teacher's Guide is designed to help you prepare for your class visit. Besides the logistical information found below, the following pages feature pre-visit and post-visit activities that can be used as part of your lesson(s) about the Statue of Liberty and immigration. Additional resources can also be found on our website: [nps.gov/stli/forteachers](https://nps.gov/stli/forteachers).

We hope your visit surpasses your expectations!

Statue of Liberty National Monument



## Key Vocabulary for Students

Diadem

Nimbus

Torch

Tablet

Pella

Stola

Shackles

## Day of the Trip

- Once you arrive at the ferry terminal and pick up your tickets from Statue Cruises, proceed to the security screening facility.
- Show the National Park Service Ranger your program confirmation letter.
- Sit, relax, and enjoy the ferry ride to Liberty Island.

**Note:** Be sure to check what your ticket says before coming to Liberty Island! There are two specific tickets. One ticket says "NO MONUMENT ACCESS" which means your group will only be able to visit the grounds of Liberty Island. The tickets that read "PEDESTAL /MUSEUM" grant you access to the inside of the monument.

## Other Hints and Tips

- Please make sure all students and chaperones understand that they need to stay together (One chaperone with every 10 students) while at the site and on the ferries.
- Remind students that if they get separated from the group they should proceed to the Information Desk and speak with a National Park Service Ranger to assist in locating your group.
- Students have the option to bring their own lunch, or purchase food from the on-site provider. Indoor eating space on Liberty Island is limited. A large uncovered outdoor patio is available all year.
- Restrooms are located in the gift pavillion to the right as you disembark the ferry. There are also restrooms located on the mezzanine inside Fort Wood.
- For First Aid, please visit the information center or alert a National Park Service Ranger. EMTs are stationed on Liberty Island and can assist your group if needed.
- Be sure to check the ferry schedule before you depart and once you arrive to be sure you can time your trip accordingly.

# PRE-VISIT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:

## Symbolism and the Statue of Liberty

**Overview:** The activities listed below will enhance and complement the student experience at the Statue of Liberty.

**New York State Learning Standards:** 1.2 There are significant individuals, historical events, and symbols that are important to our cultural identity as Americans.

2.3d Symbols of American democracy serve to unite community members.

**Materials:** Photo of Statue of Liberty, Statue of Liberty poster set OR Statue of Liberty Smartboard activity, Activity Sheet

**Time Frame:** 30 minutes

**Objectives:** Students will learn about the symbolism behind the Statue of Liberty's design and how that contributes to her identity as an American icon.

### **Procedure:**

1. Pre-teach the key vocabulary terms. You might have students pretend to be the Statue of Liberty and strike a pose for each piece of her outfit.
2. Invite students to provide a definition for a symbol. Explain that it is something that stands for something else. Show students images of symbols they might already know such as a stop sign, emoji icons, restroom signs, etc. Ask students to explain what each of the symbols mean. Invite them to share any other symbols they might know.
3. Show students a photo of the Statue of Liberty. Ask them to turn and talk with a partner about what they think she might symbolize. Invite them to share their partner's response and record their ideas for later use.

Enhance the size and print out the attached Statue of Liberty poster set OR use the Statue of Liberty Smartboard activity found [here](#).

### **Statue of Liberty Poster Set Directions:**

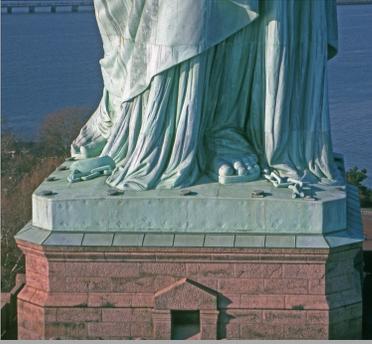
4. Place the provided silhouette of the Statue of Liberty on the board. Explain that students are going to rebuild the statue, piece by piece.
5. Invite students up, one at a time, and hand them a piece of the statue. As you hand the piece to them, read its name and corresponding symbolism information. Ask students to repeat the name as a class once the piece has been placed on the board.

**Statue of Liberty Smartboard Activity Directions:**

4. Bring up the Notebook file on your Smartboard. Explain that students are going to rebuild the statue, piece by piece.
5. Invite students up, one at a time, and ask them to drag a piece of the statue to where they think it belongs. When they have dragged and dropped the piece where it should go, tap on the label to reveal its name. Read the corresponding symbolism information. Ask students to repeat the name as a class once the piece has been placed on the Smartboard.
6. Once the statue has been put back together, invite students to compare their list of what they thought the Statue of Liberty symbolizes with the symbolism information that you just read about the design. What was the same? What was different? What questions do they still have?
7. After the symbolism discussion, have students work on the activity sheet to reinforce what they have just learned about the design.

During your visit, ask the students to find the different pieces they saw in the classroom at the site. Reiterate their significance.

# Vocabulary and Symbolism Information



## Broken chains and shackles

The broken chains and shackles at her feet symbolize freedom from slavery and oppression. Explain that the United States used to be controlled by Great Britain but they were not treating us fairly. They were not listening to us and they were doing things that were making us very upset. The broken chains and shackles are symbolic of our breaking away or leaving Great Britain and becoming our own country. They are also symbolic of the end of slavery in the United States which happened after the Civil War was fought.



## Pella and stola

The Statue of Liberty's outfit is made of two parts: a pella and stola or a cape and gown. Her outfit is symbolic of the ancient Roman goddess Libertas. Libertas was the Roman goddess of liberty.



## Torch

The torch is a symbol of enlightenment or understanding. The Statue of Liberty's torch lights the way to freedom showing us the path to Liberty.



## Diadem and nimbus

The Statue of Liberty wears a crown, or diadem, on her head showing she is important. The seven spikes on her head, or nimbus, symbolize rays of light. It shows she is divine or god like.



## Tablet

The tablet of the Statue has many different symbolic meanings. The first is the date that is written on the top. The tablet reads July 4, 1776 in Roman numerals. This is the date the United States declared its independence from Great Britain. The next symbolic meaning is the tablet's shape, which is similar to a keystone. The keystone is a stone that holds an arch together. You might print out or bring up an image of a keystone for students to see. The tablet as a keystone shows liberty as the element that holds a good society together.

# Poster Set

Enhance the size of this image with an online application or printer.



# Poster Set Continued

Enhance the size of this image with an online application or printer.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rebuild the Statue of Liberty

Help rebuild the statue by cutting and gluing the pieces in the correct spots. Be sure to label your work using the word bank below.



Diadem & Nimbus

Torch

Tablet

Pella & Stola

Shackles



# POST-VISIT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:

## Design Your Own Statue

**Materials:** Found recycled materials (paper tubes, tissue boxes, etc), construction paper, decorative materials (googly eyes, sequins, tissue paper etc) markers, crayons, glue and scissors

**Time Frame:** Two 30 minute sessions

**Objectives:** Students will create their own statues to symbolize a topic or subject that is important to them. Students will also write a rationale explaining their artistic choices.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Part One:**

1. Ask students to think back on their visit to the Statue of Liberty. The artist who created the statue made a lot of choices about its design that affected how people view it as a symbol today. What were some of those choices?
2. Invite students to think of a topic or subject that is important to them. How might they show it in statue-form? What choices might they make? If students can think of symbols to add to their design, that is great, however, the focus should be on having the statue represent one topic or subject. Have students turn and talk with a partner about their idea.
3. Explain to students that they will be creating their own statues from found materials about the topic or subject they chose. Give students access to various found materials, scissors, paint and glue. Ask students to create their statues. You might want to create your own model of a topic or subject that is important to you as an example.

#### **Part Two:**

4. When the statues are finished, have students write a title and short rationale for their pieces. Students should explain what they have created and why it is important to them.
5. Have students do a gallery walk of the artwork. Invite students to share their work with the rest of the class.