

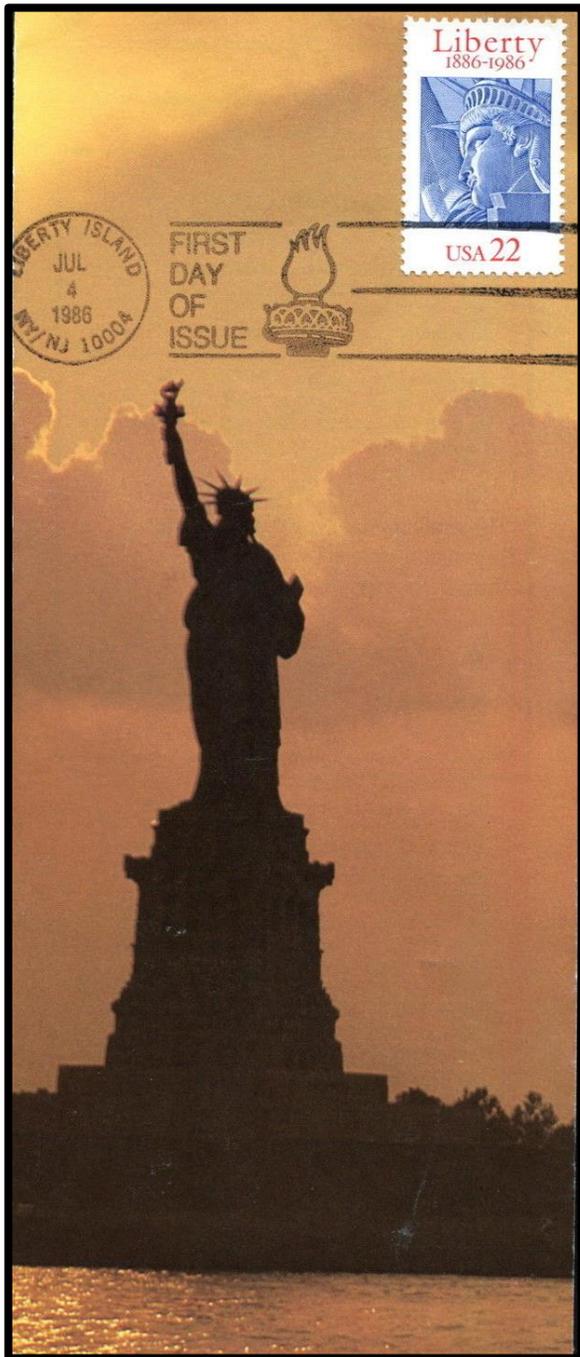


# TOPICAL TIDBITS

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## Statue of Liberty

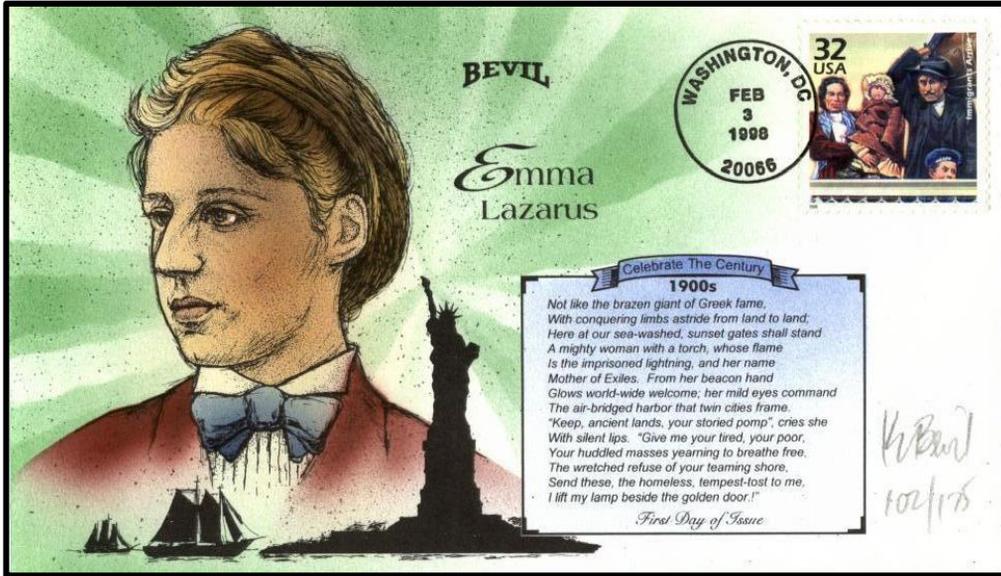


The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France. Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi designed the exterior and Gustave Eiffel designed the interior supports. The statue's 350 pieces were packed into 214 crates and arrived in New York Harbor in June of 1885. The statue was placed on Bedloe's Island which was renamed Liberty Island in 1956. Lady Liberty has greeted over 12 million immigrants when they arrived at nearby Ellis Island. The statue is an enduring symbol of freedom and democracy. Here are some more interesting facts about the statue:

- Winds of 50 miles per hour can cause the statue to sway up to three inches and the torch up to six inches.
- The seven points of the crown represent the seven seas and the seven continents.
- The statue has a 35-foot waistline.
- Lady Liberty wears a size 879 shoe.
- There are 25 windows in the crown.
- Approximately 3.5 million people visit the statue every year.
- The cost of building the statue and pedestal amounted to over \$500,000 which is over \$10m in today's money.
- A fundraising drive was organized to collect money for the pedestal. 80% of the donations were less than one dollar. In the end, \$102,000 (equivalent to over \$2.3 million today) was raised.
- In 1944, at the end of World War II, the lights in the crown flashed *dot-dot-dot-dash*, (Morse code for the letter V) for Victory in Europe.

# Statue of Liberty Poem

Emma Lazarus was born on July 22, 1849, in New York City to wealthy parents. By the age of 17 she had published a book of poetry which made many references to Greek and Roman history. Emma was also very involved in charity work for refugees. In 1883, she was asked to write a poem to help raise funds for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. Her famous sonnet describes the statue as the "Mother of Exiles." In 1903, words from *The New Colossus* were inscribed on a plaque that was placed on the pedestal wall of the Statue of Liberty.



This beautiful, hand-painted cachet by Kendal Bevil features Emma Lazarus. Her famous sonnet, *The New Colossus*, is written in the box. The stamp shows an immigrant family arriving in America.

An **acrostic poem** uses the letters in a word to begin each line of the poem. Use the words **STATUE OF LIBERTY** to write a patriotic poem.

S \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

Y \_\_\_\_\_

# Statue of Liberty Fun

## HOW TALL?

When the Statue of Liberty was completed in 1883, it was the tallest structure in New York City at 305 feet tall. Using the formula in the box to the right, find out how tall each of these famous New York landmarks is in meters.

$$3.28 \text{ feet} = 1 \text{ meter}$$

$$\underline{\quad} \text{ ft} \div 3.28 = \underline{\quad} \text{ m}$$



Verrazano-Narrows Bridge  
693 ft = \_\_\_\_\_ m



Empire State Building  
1454 ft = \_\_\_\_\_ m



Brooklyn Bridge  
275 ft = \_\_\_\_\_ m



Statue of Liberty  
305 ft = \_\_\_\_\_ m

## A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Did you know that the amount of copper in the Statue of Liberty could make 30 million pennies? When the statue was originally built, it was a dull brown color, which is the natural color of copper. Over the next 30 years, though, weathering slowly turned it to the green color you see today. You can see this same effect by doing the experiment below.

### Materials Needed:

Copper pennies  
White vinegar  
Bowl  
Paper towel

### Procedure:

1. Fold the paper towel so that it fits inside your bowl.
2. Place the pennies on top of the paper towel.
3. Pour vinegar over the pennies so that the paper towel is fully saturated.
4. Observe the pennies over the next few hours and days. (You may need to add more vinegar when the paper towel dries up.)

### What Happened?

A chemical reaction occurred. A penny is made of copper and the vinegar helped the copper in the penny react with the oxygen in the air to form a blue-green colored compound called malachite. This is similar to why the Statue of Liberty (which is covered with a layer of copper) has turned greenish-blue. The statue would naturally turn greenish-blue due to exposure to the oxygen in the air. However, because some rain has acid from pollution in it, the rain speeds up the reaction (just as the vinegar caused the reaction with the penny).

--From [www.buggyandbuddy.com](http://www.buggyandbuddy.com)



# OOPS!

The stamp on the left was issued by the USPS in 2011 and is actually a photo of a statue in Las Vegas. The stamp on the right is what the stamp *should* have looked like if the real Lady Liberty had been used.



# Statue of Liberty