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## The Statue of Liberty

France and the United States became friends during the Revolutionary War. France made the Statue of Liberty as a gift for the United States. It celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, created the Statue of Liberty. He took twelve years to build it. He based the face on his mother as a young woman. Completed in 1884, the sculpture stood on display in France for a year. Then it was taken apart. It crossed the Atlantic in 214 huge packing crates. The ship carrying the crates nearly went down in a storm.

When the sculpture arrived, it was put on a granite pedestal. It stands on the twelve-acre Liberty Island in New York. The Statue of

Liberty's official name is *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Its location is close to the Ellis Island **immigrant** station. It is a symbol of America's welcome to immigrants.

The Statue of Liberty is covered with copper sheets. It weighs 225 tons. There are 354 steps to the crown. The crown has seven rays. They represent the seven seas and continents. Lady Liberty holds a tablet. Inscribed on it is the date July 4, 1776, in Roman numerals.

### Check Your Understanding

- What date is written in Roman numerals on the tablet held by Lady Liberty?
  - January 1, 1884
  - July 4, 1886
  - July 4, 1776
  - February 22, 1732
- Which of these titles would best express the main idea of the passage?
  - "A Statue for Washington"
  - "Celebrating the Revolution"
  - "The Statue of Liberty as an American Symbol"
  - "Climbing the Statue of Liberty"
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **immigrant**?
  - a person who leaves a country
  - a person who enters a country to live there
  - a person who builds statues
  - a tourist
- What is the Statue of Liberty built upon?
  - an old ship
  - a pedestal
  - dirt
  - copper sheeting

