

The Statue of Liberty



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. Her official name is Liberty Enlightening the World. She was modeled on Libertas, the Roman goddess of liberty, and she faces southeast, as if to welcome the ships arriving in the harbor.

Her skin is copper, about as thick as two pennies placed together. When she was finished in 1886, she was brown, like a penny. Over about thirty years the copper slowly changed and formed a green coating, called a patina.

From the ground to the tip of her torch, she is 305 feet tall, as tall as a 22-story building. In her left hand she holds a tablet with the date of American independence, July 4, 1776, in Roman numerals.

The torch she holds today is her second. The first wore out inside and was taken down in 1984; it is now in the museum on the island. The new flame is covered in gold.

1. What is the statue's skin made of?

2. What date is written on the tablet in her left hand?

3. The statue was brown in 1886. Why is she green today?

4. Why do you think she faces the ships arriving in the harbor?

Answer key

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1. What is the statue's skin made of?
Copper, about as thick as two pennies placed together.
2. What date is written on the tablet in her left hand?
July 4, 1776, the date of American independence, in Roman numerals.
3. The statue was brown in 1886. Why is she green today?
Over about thirty years her copper slowly changed and formed a green coating, called a patina.
4. Why do you think she faces the ships arriving in the harbor?
Sample answer: so she would be one of the first things people saw as they arrived, and would welcome them.