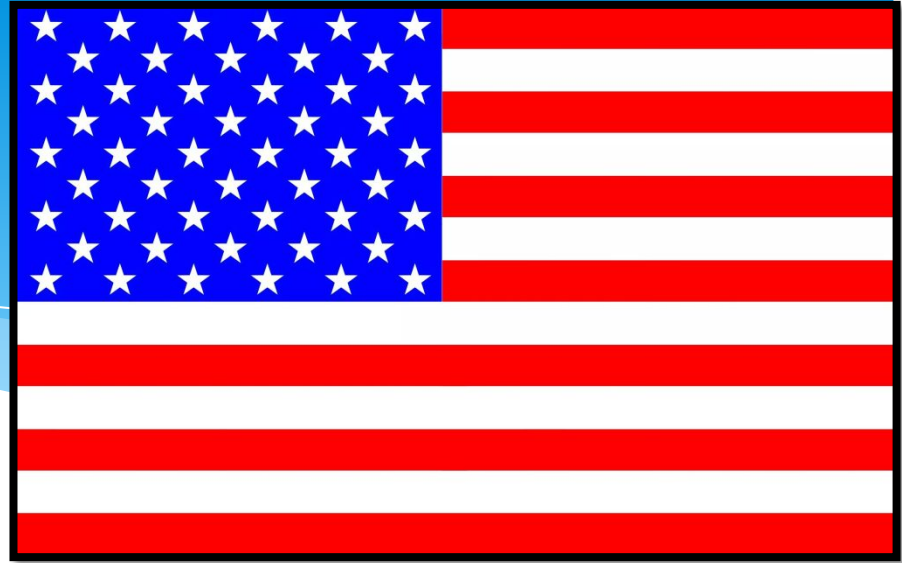


Statue of Liberty



* The Statue of Liberty is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York City, in the United States. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.



- *
 - * Bartholdi and Laboulaye considered how best to express the idea of American liberty. In early American history, two female figures were frequently used as cultural symbols of the nation. One of these symbols, the personified Columbia, was seen as an embodiment of the United States in the manner that Britannia was identified with the United Kingdom and Marianne came to represent France.



* Columbia had supplanted the earlier figure of an Indian princess, which had come to be regarded as uncivilized and derogatory toward Americans. The other significant female icon in American culture was a representation of Liberty, derived from Libertas, the goddess of freedom widely worshipped in ancient Rome, especially among emancipated slaves. A Liberty figure adorned most American coins of the time and representations of Liberty appeared in popular and civic art, including Thomas Crawford's Statue of Freedom atop the dome of the United States Capitol Building.



Interesting Facts

- * The Goddess of freedom holds a torch in its right hand, and the tablet in the left. The inscription on the tablet reads "July 4, 1776" (written in Roman numerals) – this is the date of the Declaration of Independence. The Goddess stands with one foot on the broken chains.
- * The Goddess wears a crown. There are 25 windows in a crown which symbolize gemstones found on the earth and heavenly rays that illuminate the world. It is believed, that seven rays on the crown of the statue symbolize the seven seas and the seven continents.

