

DEVELOP YOUR READING SKILL



More than a million people immigrate to the United States to start new lives every year, and if they are arriving in New York, one of the first sights that they will see is the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island, near Manhattan in New York. Though she is often thought to be resident of New York, Liberty Island is actually federal property, which means that the Statue of Liberty belongs to the whole country. The Statue of Liberty is not only the tallest statue in America, it is also one of the most recognizable American symbols.

The Statue of Liberty is huge. From the tip of the torch to the pedestal on which she stands, she is just over 151 feet tall. If you include the pedestal in your measurement, she stands more than 305 feet off of the ground. That's more than 30 basketball hoops or an entire football field. Her waist size is 35 feet, which would make it awfully tough to find pants, and the tablet she holds is 23 feet long. Don't worry though; she hasn't had any trouble holding that tablet yet with her 8 foot index finger. Talk about heavy handed...

Though America financed and built the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty stands, the statue itself was a gift from France. In this way the complete work, much like the United States, is a product of both American and French contributions. At one time America was ruled by the British. The founding fathers of America chose to fight against Great Britain for the independence of their country. France supported America by providing money, men, and weapons of war. Had it not been for French contributions during the Revolutionary War, America would not exist in the way that it does today; therefore, it is quite fitting that the Statue of Liberty, which represents freedom, came to being by a joint American and French effort. On October 28th, 1886, just over one-hundred years after America declared its independence from Great Britain, the Statue of Liberty was completed and dedicated by its designer, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.

Perhaps no person did more to bring the statue into being than Bartholdi. Not only did Bartholdi gain both French and American approval for the project, he led the French fundraising efforts and designed the appearance of the statue. The appearance of the Statue of Liberty is somewhat derived from Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom. The torch represents how liberty enlightens the world. The seven points or rays coming from the top of the crown represent the sun, the seven seas, the Liberty Enlightening the World - seven continents, and (as with the torch) how liberty enlightens the world. Though much of the statue was modeled after depictions of goddesses, Bartholdi modeled the face after his mother. Now that's a Mother's Day gift that's hard to top.

Though Bartholdi was responsible for the external appearance of statue, the internal design can be largely credited to innovative designer, Gustave Eiffel. Though Mr. Eiffel is best known for his contributions to a tower in Paris that is named after him, he also engineered the internal structure that holds up the Statue of Liberty. Eiffel chose to use a flexible structure, so that changes in the temperature and strong winds from the ocean would not cause the statue to crack. Because of Eiffel's crafty design, the Statue of Liberty may sway as much as three inches on a windy day. If the winds exceed 50 miles per hour, the torch may sway five inches. Eiffel is also responsible for including two spiraling staircases on the interior of the statue to help visitors reach the observation point in the crown.

While most people appreciate the Statue of Liberty today, during its construction in the 1870s, many Americans were critical of the project. Some took issue with the fact that Bartholdi was French. They believed that American monuments should be designed and constructed by Americans. Others felt that the statue wasn't much of a gift since it required Americans to foot the bill for the pedestal. After the Panic of 1873, America fell into a deep economic depression that lasted through much of the 1870s. (During an economic depression people spend less money and it is harder to find jobs.) Because the nation was going through a depression, many Americans thought that money should not be spent to support a giant French statue. I think most Americans would now agree that it was a good investment.

1. Which is not represented by the seven points on the crown of the Statue of Liberty according to the text?

- a. The points represent how liberty enlightens the world.
- b. The points represent the seven continents.
- c. The points represent the sun.
- d. The points represent the seven days of creation.

2. Information in the second paragraph is mainly organized using which text structure?

- a. Spatial order
- b. Order of importance
- c. Chronological order
- d. Cause and effect

3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?

- a. France assisted the United States in the Revolutionary War.
- b. The statue was a joint effort between France and the U.S. just like U.S. independence.
- c. The U.S. was once a colony of Great Britain.
- d. The statue of liberty was dedicated 100 years after America declared its independence.

4. Which is not a reason why people criticized the Statue of Liberty during its construction?

- a. Some people felt that the statue should have been bigger.
- b. Some people felt that the statue should have been built by an American.
- c. Some people felt that France should have paid for the statue and the pedestal.
- d. Some people felt that America shouldn't spend money on a statue during a depression.

5. Which of the following statements is false?

- a. The tablet that the Statue of Liberty holds is 23 feet long.
- b. The Statue of Liberty's waste size is 35 feet.
- c. The pedestal underneath the Statue of Liberty is 305 tall.
- d. The Statue of Liberty is over 151 feet tall.

6. Which best expresses the author's purpose in writing the last paragraph?

- a. To describe what a depression is
- b. To show that some people did not think very highly of the French
- c. To argue why the Statue of Liberty was a good investment
- d. To explain why some people were against building the statue.

7. Which of the following is an opinion?

- a. The Statue of Liberty cost a tremendous amount of money to build.
- b. The Statue of Liberty was sculpted by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.
- c. The Statue of Liberty is over 151 feet tall.
- d. The Statue of Liberty may sway 3 inches on a windy day.

8. Which of the following statements is false?

- a. The guy who built the Eiffel Tower also designed the inside of the Statue of Liberty.
- b. The Eiffel Tower was a gift to the Americans from the people of France.
- c. The Statue of Liberty is located on federal property.

d. Bartholdi got permission from both the French and the US to build the statue.

9. Which of the following is not one of the ways that Bartholdi contributed to the statue?

- a. He designed the interior of the statue.
- b. He gained approval for the project from the U.S. and from France.
- c. He sculpted the exterior of the statue.
- d. He gained financing to complete the project from France.

10. Which best expresses the author's purpose in writing this text?

- a. To persuade people to visit the Statue of Liberty
- b. To inform readers with interesting facts about the Statue of Liberty
- c. To entertain readers with stories about the construction of the Statue of Liberty
- d. To describe the appearance of the Statue of Liberty.

11. Why is it significant or important that the Statue of Liberty is a product of both French and American efforts? Make your point, quote text to support it, explain your quote, and connect it back to your point.

12. Why were Gustave Eiffel's contributions to the Statue of Liberty important? Make your point, quote text to support your point, explain your quote, and connect it back to your point.

ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED JULY 25, 2016)

KEY :
TRUE / FALSE:
a.T b.F c.T d.F e.T f.F g.T h.F
SYNONYM MATCH:
a. reportedly reputedly b. instrumental key c. cutting edge pioneering d. collaborating pooling resources e. sever cut f. untenable shaky
g. helm wheel h. concerted concentrated
i. woo curry favor with j. phenomenally extraordinarily
PHRASE MATCH:
a. reportedly negotiating the sale of Pixar
b. makers of a string of now classic movies
c. wave his magic wand over its fortunes
d. instrumental in raising animation standards
e. he would sever relations with Disney
f. never saw eye with Disney's former CEO
g. took over at the Disney helm
h. he has made concerted efforts to woo Mr. Jobs into continuing
i. In an attempt to soften Jobs up
j. successful in in courting Jobs
WRONG WORD:
Disney in talks to buy Pixar
Apple's CEO Steve Jobs is reportedly negotiating the sale of Pixar Animation Studios to Disney. Jobs is also CEO

UNDERSTANDING THEME WITH FABLES

In Aesop's fables, the moral of the story (theme) is written in the last line. In the following fables, the last line or theme has been removed. Some slight changes have also been made to the originals.

Directions : Determine the moral or theme of these fables and explain your interpretations.

1. The Ant and the Grasshopper

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and mulling in that way?" "I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew.

What did the Grasshopper learn?

Explain how your answer relates to the story :

2. The Monkey and the Cookies

A monkey put his hand into a jar of cookies. He grasped as many as he could possibly hold, but when he tried to pull out his hand, he was prevented from doing so by the neck of the cookie jar. Unwilling to lose the cookies, and yet unable to withdraw his hand, he burst into tears and bitterly lamented his disappointment.

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story :

3. The Bundle of Sticks

An old monkey on the point of death summoned his sons around him to give them some parting advice. He ordered them to bring in a bundle of sticks, and said to his eldest son: "Break it." The son strained and strained, but with all his efforts was unable to break the sticks. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful. "Untie the bundle," said the father, "and each of you take a stick." When they had done so, he called out to them: "Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.

What was the father's meaning?

Explain how your answer relates to the story :

4. The Dogs and the Hides

Some dogs famished with hunger saw a number of cowhides steeping in a river. Not being able to reach them, they agreed to drink up the river, but it happened that they burst themselves with drinking long before they reached the hides.

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story :



5. The Monkey and the Snake

One winter a Monkey found a Snake stiff and frozen with cold. He had compassion on it, and taking it up, placed it in his bosom. The Snake was quickly revived by the warmth, and resuming its natural instincts, bit the monkey, inflicting on him a mortal wound.

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story :

6. The Fir-Tree and the Bramble

A FIR-TREE said boastfully to the Bramble, "You are useful for nothing at all; while I am everywhere used for roofs and houses." The Bramble answered: "You poor creatures, if you would only call to mind the axes and saws which are about to hew you down, you would have reason to wish that you had grown up a Bramble, not a Fir-Tree."

What lesson does the Bramble teach the Fir-Tree?

Explain how your answer relates to the story:

7. The Flies and the Honey-Pot

A number of flies were attracted to a jar of honey which had been overturned in a housekeeper's room, and placing their feet in it, ate greedily. Their feet, however, became so smeared with the honey that they could not use their wings, nor release themselves, and were suffocated.

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story:

8. The Fox and the Cat

A Fox was boasting to a Cat of its clever devices for escaping its enemies. "I have a whole bag of tricks," he said, "which contains a hundred ways of escaping my enemies." "I have only one," said the Cat; "but I can generally manage with that." Just at that moment they heard the cry of a pack of hounds coming towards them, and the Cat immediately scampered up a tree and hid herself in the boughs. "This is my plan," said the Cat. "What are you going to do?" The Fox thought first of one way, then of another, and while he was debating the hounds came nearer and nearer, and at last the Fox in his confusion was caught up by the hounds and soon killed by the huntsmen.

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story:

9. The Fox and the Crow

A Crow, having stolen a bit of meat, perched in a tree and held it in her beak. A Fox, seeing this, longed to possess the meat himself, and by a wily stratagem succeeded. "How handsome is the Crow," he exclaimed, in the beauty of her shape and in the fairness of her complexion! Oh, if her voice were only equal to her beauty, she would deservedly be considered the Queen of Birds!" This he said deceitfully; but the Crow, anxious to refute the reflection cast upon her voice, set up a loud caw and dropped the flesh. The Fox quickly picked it up, and thus addressed the Crow: "My good Crow, your voice is right enough, but your wit is wanting."

What is the moral of the story?

Explain how your answer relates to the story:



Find the answers in next MONDAY issue