



AMERICA'S LANDMARKS

■ Greatness

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

● **Whose Faces** - Carved into the face of a mountain in South Dakota are the faces of four great American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

● **Why Them** - "The birth of our nation was guided by the vision and courage of George Washington. Thomas Jefferson always had dreams of a greater, more perfect nation, first in the words of the Declaration of Independence and later in the expansion of our nation through the Louisiana Purchase. Preservation of the union was paramount to Abraham Lincoln, a nation where all men were free and equal. At the turn of the Twentieth Century Theodore Roosevelt envisioned a great nation, a leader on the world stage, our nation was changing from a rural republic to a world power. The ideals of these presidents laid a foundation for the United States of America as solid as the rock from which their figures were carved." (Source: National Park Service web site.)

● **How** - Sculptor Gutzon Borglum created a plaster model from which measurements were taken using the pointing system. On October 4, 1927 the first actual work of carving began. Dynamite was used to remove rock from the mountain until there was only a thin, three to six inch (roughly 15 cm) layer of granite left. This final layer of granite was removed by a process called "honeycombing." Then the surface was worked smooth with a bumper tool. This left the faces as smooth as a sidewalk.

Work began on Mount Rushmore with George Washington. His head was first carved in an egg shape, and his features added later. Thomas Jefferson was started on Washington's right. After about two years of working on Jefferson, the granite was found to be badly cracked and Jefferson had to be blasted off the mountain. He was started again on the left side of Washington.

● **When** - Washington's face was dedicated on July 4, 1934, Thomas Jefferson's in 1936, Abraham Lincoln's in 1937, and Theodore Roosevelt's in 1939. For two more years the work continued on the mountain. Details and finishing touches were made. In March of 1941 Borglum suddenly died and his son, Lincoln, took over the project for the next seven months, until funding ran out. The carving of Mount Rushmore was shut down and the presidential faces were complete as they stood.

● **By the Numbers** - The Presidents' faces are 60 feet (18.3 m) high. Today, more than 2.7 million people visit Mt. Rushmore each year, making it one of the most popular monuments in the United States.

To learn more about Mount Rushmore, visit the web site of the National Park Service at: www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm
(Text based on the National Park Service web site.)

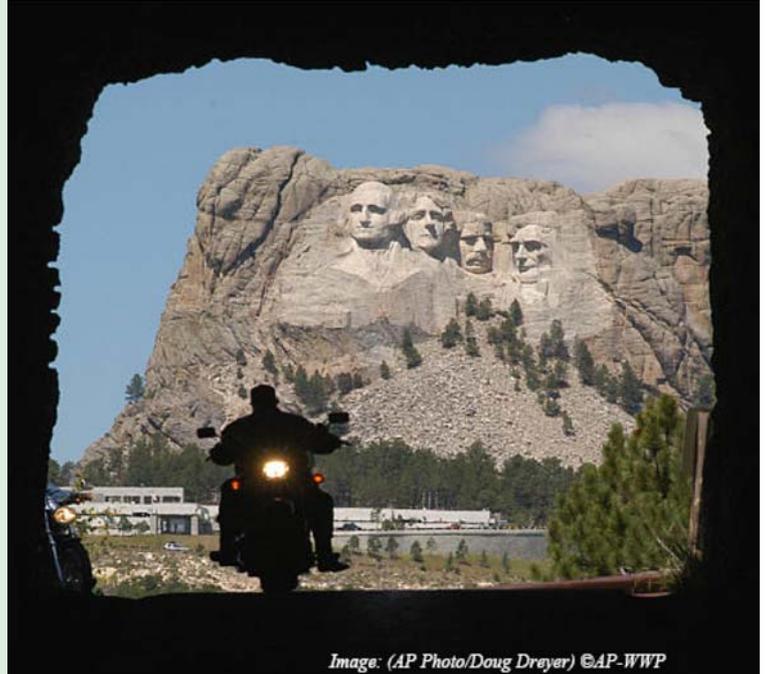


Image: (AP Photo/Doug Drayer) ©AP-WWP

■ Liberty

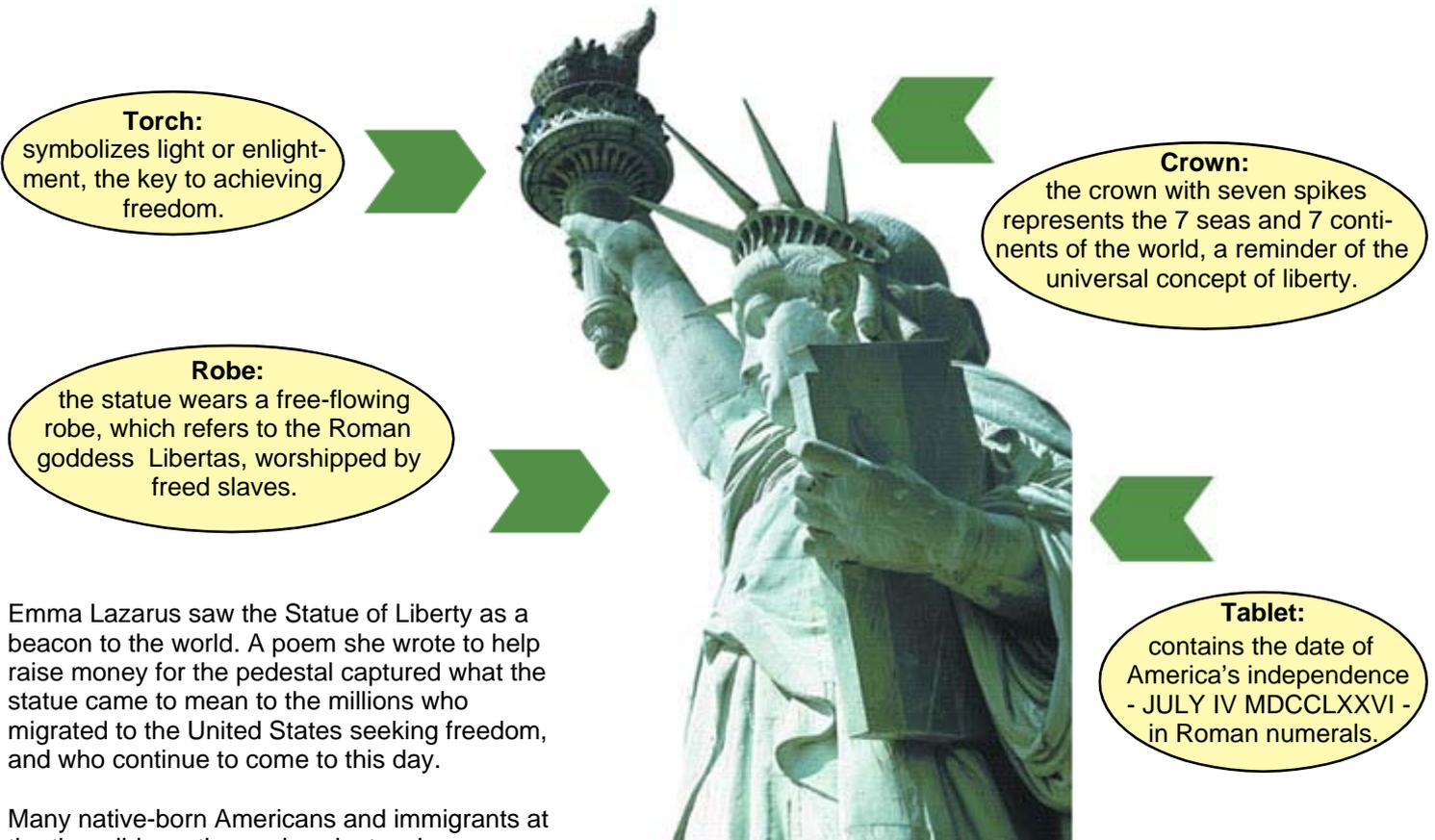
The Statue of Liberty stands on an island located next to Ellis Island in New York City's harbor, which functioned as a special port of entry for immigrants between 1892 and 1954. In those years Ellis Island was the doorway to the United States for 12 million people. The statue became many immigrants' first sight of their homeland-to-be.

The U.S. now admits about 1 million legal immigrants each year. They are mostly immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, skilled employees, refugees, and "winners" of the U.S. Diversity Visa lottery.



Ellis Island. Photo by the U.S. National Park Service

Based on Department of State and National Park Service publications.



Torch:
symbolizes light or enlightenment, the key to achieving freedom.

Crown:
the crown with seven spikes represents the 7 seas and 7 continents of the world, a reminder of the universal concept of liberty.

Robe:
the statue wears a free-flowing robe, which refers to the Roman goddess Libertas, worshipped by freed slaves.

Tablet:
contains the date of America's independence - JULY IV MDCCLXXVI - in Roman numerals.

Emma Lazarus saw the Statue of Liberty as a beacon to the world. A poem she wrote to help raise money for the pedestal captured what the statue came to mean to the millions who migrated to the United States seeking freedom, and who continue to come to this day.

Many native-born Americans and immigrants at the time did see themselves just as Lazarus portrayed them - wretched, nameless, "tempest-tost." For them Europe meant poverty and persecution, and America meant democracy and opportunity. "Other lands," wrote the Polish emigre Henryk Sienkiewicz, "grant only asylum; this land recognizes the immigrant as a son and grants him rights." When they were "sickened at last of poverty, bigotry and kings," wrote another immigrant, "there was always America!"

Language Tip:
You can create phrases similar to the one above: "homeland-to-be" (meaning "future homeland") using other words, e.g. "a bride-to-be" = a future bride, "a graduate-to-be" = a future graduate.

**Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land:
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"**

The New Colossus
The Poems of Emma Lazarus, vol.1 (1889)

Beauty

Here is an example of an informal letter (to a friend or member of your family).

Put the date in the upper right corner. Americans generally write the date in this order: month/day/year.

Greet the person you are writing to.

Besides *Hi*, you can also use:

Dear...

Hello...

At the beginning you can mention your latest contact with the person. Use phrases such as:

Many thanks for your letter.

It was very nice to hear from you.

I was glad to hear that...

After the main body of the letter you may end it with:

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Write soon!

Hi Kate,

07/30/2005

Thanks for your letter. It was nice to hear from you after such a long time!

I am writing to you from the States. My aunt and cousins live in Salt Lake City, Utah, and they invited me to spend two weeks with them. Utah has several marvelous national parks with astonishing natural formations. With my aunt we are going to visit some of these parks. You know how much I love nature, so I'm very excited. I promise I'll send you a card from each park we visited.

My stay here also gives me an excellent opportunity to practice English. I hope I will be able to expand my vocabulary and improve my language skills.

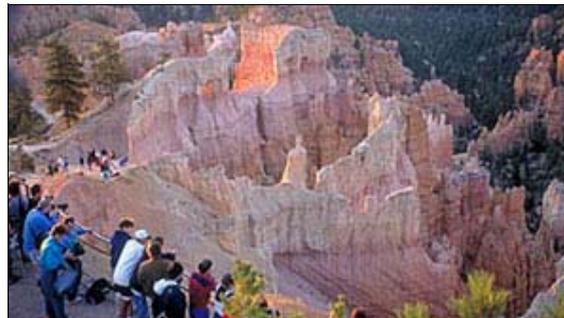
I am looking forward to seeing you again in Budapest!

Take care,

Kati



Mesa Arch, Island in the Sky District
Canyonlands National Park, Utah



Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah



Beehive Geyser, Yellowstone
National Park, Idaho,
Montana, Wyoming



Trio of Hoodoos, Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

To learn more about national parks, please visit the web site of the National Park Service at: www.nps.gov

Activity Page

Win a Book!

To take part in a drawing for copies of *The World Almanac*, e-mail us the answer to the following question:

Whose faces are carved into Mount Rushmore?

Send your answer to:
zoom@usembassy.hu

Please state your name, address, and age.

The deadline is
December 20, 2005.

Winners will be notified
by December 30, 2005.

Good Luck!

ZOOM
in on america

**Zoom is available
online at**

[www.usembassy.hu/
zoom.html](http://www.usembassy.hu/zoom.html)

Please send requests
for subscription and
comments to:
zoom@usembassy.hu

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■ A Little Difficult?

Complete the sentences with *little*, *a little*, *few*, or *a few*.

1. There were only _____ items left after the big sale.
2. You only need _____ sugar to make this cake.
3. We don't need to hurry. We still have _____ time before the train leaves.
4. I don't understand why there were so _____ people at the cinema. I really liked the movie.
5. My mother always had very _____ patience with us. She got angry quickly when we misbehaved.
6. At a job interview they will want to ask you _____ questions.
7. _____ people can speak more than 5 languages.
8. The man who was sitting _____ seats in front of us was eating popcorn very loudly.

■ Glossary — With page numbers where the words appear.

asylum - place where one finds protection and safety; a shelter (2)
beacon - a signaling or guiding device, such as a lighthouse, located on a coast (2)
brazen - shameless, immodest (2)
to dedicate - to give to, or declare for, a cause, purpose, or person (1)
émigré (also émigré) - one who has left a native country, especially for political reasons (2)
exile - a person who has been forced to leave his/her country (2)
honeycombing - drillers would drill holes into the granite very close together. The closely drilled holes would weaken the granite so it could be removed often by hand. (1)
hoodoo - something or someone believed to bring bad luck (3)
to huddle - to crowd together, in a group or in a pile (2)
mesa - a broad, flat-topped elevation with one or more cliff-like sides (3)
paramount - great above all others; highest in power or importance (1)
persecution - harassment, usually based on race or religion (2)
pointing system - enables stone carvers to accurately create a large stone replica from smaller plaster or clay models (1)
refugee - a person who escapes from his/her country to avoid persecution (2)
to run out - to come to an end or have no more (1)
tost - archaic past of toss: to be thrown here and there (2)
to worship - to honor (a god) (2)
wretched - miserable (2)

Find Correct Answers at: www.usembassy.hu/quiz_key.html

■ The Article Mystery – definite, indefinite or non?

Fill in the gaps. Write *the*, *a(n)* or leave the space blank.

1. She was probably _____ most beautiful woman I've ever seen.
2. My kids usually drink _____ hot chocolate before going to sleep.
3. My older brother is _____ computer programmer. He works from _____ home.
4. Can I have _____ bar of chocolate?
5. _____ doctors say you should eat five servings of _____ vegetables _____ day.
6. I love _____ green tea, but _____ tea they served at this restaurant last night was horrible!
7. _____ poor in this country are threatening to rebel unless their situation improves.
8. I couldn't understand why they chose to live in _____ Minnesota. For me, _____ warm states are _____ best in _____ United States.
9. You'll find the main library on _____ Lion Street.