

June 17th

Memory verse

He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. (Ps. 147:4)

Something to read from history

Be it known that I, AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI, of Paris, in the Republic of France, have originated and produced a Design of a Monumental Statue, representing “Liberty enlightening the world,” being intended as a commemorative monument of the independence of the United States...

These are the opening words of the patent describing the design of perhaps the most famous statue in the world.

On 17th June 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbour from France. It was a present from the people of France to the people of America as a gesture of friendship. The statue is a figure of a woman with a torch in her raised right hand. It is over 150 feet (46 metres) tall and visitors can ascend inside the statue to a viewing platform in the crown by climbing 377 steps. Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor, was not the only person involved in the statue's design: the engineer Gustave Eiffel (the man who designed the Eiffel Tower in Paris) designed the internal structural support from which the whole statue hangs. The statue can sway in the wind due to a skeleton of wrought iron trusses inside it. In a fifty mile an hour wind the statue sways up to 3 inches and the torch up to 6 inches.



The outer part of the statue is not structural. Most big modern buildings are built on this principle which is called “curtain wall construction” – the outer walls are there to protect the occupants from the weather and give a pleasing external appearance; they do not hold up the building! This type of construction allowed the statue to be built from sheets of hammered copper that were less than 3mm thick. Look at a ruler to see exactly how thin that is for a statue of such a height.

The statue was built between 1876 and 1884 in France. The Americans built the pedestal and when this was ready the great statue was dismantled and put in 214 huge crates to be transported across the sea to New York.

A poem to read aloud

A poem was written as part of the fund raising effort for the building of the pedestal by American poet Emma Lazarus. She thought about poor immigrants arriving at New York harbour; the statue would be the first thing they saw. The poem is now engraved on the pedestal and the statue has become a symbol of the refuge the United States has been to many fleeing poverty or oppression. The “brazen giant” in the opening line is the Colossus of Rhodes, a great statue that stood astride the entrance to that Greek harbour in ancient times.

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!”

Something to think about

The idea of glorifying “Liberty Enlightening the World” makes Christians pause and think. However much Christians applaud liberty and are grateful to have it, they do not regard it as “enlightening the world.” The pilgrim fathers, fleeing to the New World from persecution in England, would have been the first to point out that “the true light that lighteth [i.e. enlightens] every man that cometh into the world” is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:9).

Where does true liberty come from? Look up John 8:32 for Jesus's answer to the question. Older children might like to think about whether we can have any basis for liberty without the teachings of the Bible. Without an objective basis for morality how can we set the boundaries for liberty? Or is it possible to have *total* liberty? The Puritan writer, Samuel Bolton (1606-1664) considered this subject from all angles in his *The True Bounds of Christian Freedom* (1645).

Something to make

Can you use your Lego bricks to make a curtain wall construction building? Perhaps you could make a solid Lego tower first and then clad it with something non-structural, say cardboard, so that the finished “building” conceals the Lego core.

Map work

The date **17th June** is important to American history for another reason too. On that day in 1579 Francis Drake landed in California – which he called “New Albion.” Drake had set out on a voyage that was to take him right round the world! Look at the Optional Resources files for 9th June and you will find a map of the world divided up into squares. Use this to draw a world onto an ordinary piece of A4 paper. Now using your Atlas you can plot his course from the list of places below. You can put the dates on your map too. How long did the whole voyage take?

1577 December 13 th	Plymouth
1578 January 30 th	Cape Verde Islands
	South America near the mouth of the River Plate
1578 June 18 th	Port St Julian
1578 August 20 th	Straits of Magellan (16 days)
	South of Tierra Del Fuego



Along the coast of Chile

Valparaiso

1579 February 15th

Callao, Lima

1579 June 17th

California

Huatulco, Central America

Vancouver Island (?)

1579 July

San Francisco Bay

1579 July 23rd

set out across Pacific

1579 October 16th

Philippines

1579 November 3

Ternate, East Indies

Java

across the Indian Ocean

round Cape of Good Hope

1580 September 26th

Plymouth

Now you have traced this amazing journey on the map but why did it take place? We have read about some of the threads of history that feed into the of story Drake's circumnavigation (sailing right round) of the world already. We read about the Armada on May 18th but when Drake set sail in 1577 that was still eleven years in the future. On 16th April we read about Phillip II of Spain. Phillip was England's enemy. He had wanted to make England a Catholic country and when he married Queen Mary Tudor he had seen success on the horizon. Now Mary was dead, her sister Elizabeth was Queen and she and all England were determined to keep Phillip at bay. The pope had promised England to Phillip but Elizabeth had other ideas and so had her subjects! In 1577 Phillip was very powerful. He ruled Spain, he ruled Portugal, he ruled much of Italy and he tyrannised the Low Countries. His galleons, filled with silver and gold plying to and from the New World, brought him great wealth with which to pay his armies and Elizabeth could not risk open warfare with Spain. Instead she encouraged a tactic not far from piracy, approving secretly when Drake and others captured Spanish ships and took their treasure.¹

Circumnavigation of the globe had not been in Drake's original plans for the 1577 expedition. He intended to sail through the Straits of Magellan and so be able to plunder unsuspecting Spanish shipping in the Pacific Ocean. You will understand this if you look at the map. This was hardly a proper objective for public announcement and so the founding of colonies in suitable places, should there be any, was also hinted at in his plans. He had to put down mutiny, endure the loss of all but one of his five little ships, spend sixteen days in the wild, cold, awe-inspiring Straits of Magellan, suffer a tempest that drove them 600 miles before it in the Pacific Ocean and where he had expected to find land there was only limitless ocean! He captured a magnificent prize at Valparaiso where the Spanish, totally unaware of his presence assumed his was a Spanish ship – until it was too late.

¹ See also the lesson for 7th June.

Then he carried on up the coast looking for his lost ships, raiding as he went.

Then, at Callao, Lima, Drake heard the exciting news that a laden galleon, the *Cacafuego* had sailed some time previously bound for Panama. He caught up with her, waited for night to fall, and then pounced. Drake's ship the *Golden Hind* was tiny and his crew small compared to the massive galleon with her extensive well armed crew. But the *Cacafuego* was not expecting to find an English ship and Drake shot her mizzen overboard, boarded her and overpowered her astonished crew. Twenty tons of silver bullion, thirteen chests of silver coin, a hundred-weight of gold, and a great store of pearls, diamonds and emeralds were all transferred to the *Golden Hind* – payment Drake said for a previous episode when he had been robbed by the Spanish at San Juan d'Uloa in 1568. Then the *Cacafuego* was allowed to sail off – empty.

And now it was time to return home with his little ship loaded down with Spanish treasure. He dare not go back through the Magellan Straits. The Spanish would be on the look-out for him now. Perhaps he could find his way back through the fabled North West Passage and so evade them. But the *Golden Hind* was battered by contrary winds, his charts were useless and the cold was intense.

Drake took possession of “New Albion” on behalf of his queen and made friends with the indigenous people. Then he had the forge set up and the workshop and the men set to work to repair the leaks in the *Golden Hind* and scrape the barnacles off her bottom.

As far north as Vancouver they went when they set out in the summer but not further. Drake gave up hope of discovering the passage and he decided reluctantly to try for the Cape of Good Hope, relying on a chart he had found in a captured Spanish ship.

The voyage home was full of perils. At one point they were pelted with stones by natives with whom they hoped to trade. They were grounded on a coral reef and were only got off by throwing stores of meal, beans, cloves and even guns, overboard to lighten the ship and Drake had trouble with the ship's chaplain.

At Java they were royally entertained and the rest of the voyage home was lonely but uneventful. Drake arrived home to Plymouth to a storm of joy: people had presumed him dead. As you will already know if you did the lesson for 4th April, Queen Elizabeth too was overjoyed and knighted Drake on board the *Golden Hind* at Deptford in 1581.