

## 2) POSSIBLE PATHWAYS THROUGH THE ARCHIVE

### A STATUE'S MEANING

DURATION: 90 MINUTES

Examine how the statue has meant different things to many people over time. During this lesson students will explore the history of the Statue of Liberty and how it has evolved sources.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

How did *The New Colossus* become a part of the Statue of Liberty?

What is the role of art in helping people express, understand, and debate American identity?

How does knowing about history help us to become better Americans?

### OUTCOMES

*Students will:*

- Examine and interpret primary sources
- Explore what the Statue of Liberty means as a symbol of America
- Learn about Emma Lazarus, a role model who used her talent to help others see a new possibility for America
- Understand some of the debates that were central to Emma's life including immigration, inequality, and antisemitism, and how she responded
- Make connections between Emma's life and theirs today

### MATERIALS

Selected Materials From The Archive:

[Statue of Liberty 1865 through 1875](#)

[The New Colossus By Emma Lazarus](#)

[Immigration & The Statue of Liberty Prior to 1900](#)

[Immigration & The Statue of Liberty 1900-1965](#)

[Response To The Dedication of the Statue of Liberty](#)

### STEPS

- 1) Show students an image of the Statue of Liberty today. Ask them to share their observations and ideas about the Statue.
- 2) Explore the Statue of Liberty using selected primary sources from the Statue of Liberty archive. *This can be done as a full group, in small groups, with partners, or individually.*
- 3) Debrief the activity as a full group:
  - What did students uncover through their observation?
  - What message do they think the Statue of Liberty sends to people about America?
- 4) Ask and discuss:
  - How has the meaning of the Statue changed over time?
  - How does the story of the Statue of liberty tell us something about American Identity?
  - What do you think "liberty" means? Who gets to define what it means?
  - How does learning about the history of the Statue change how you view it?