

SOURCE

Cover of *Time magazine* (April 10, 2006)

Time (www.time.com/time), founded in 1923, is one of the best-known weekly American news magazines. Its circulation is about four million in the USA and 5,200,000 worldwide.

The Statue of Liberty (Lady Liberty) stands on Liberty Island, in New York Harbour, to welcome visitors and immigrants. Designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and Gustave Eiffel, the statue was offered to the American people by France in 1884.

Lady Liberty is a colossal woman, standing upright, wearing a long robe and a seven point spiked crown symbolizing the Seven Seas. She is holding a flaming torch in her right hand and a stone tablet in her left hand. The inscription on the tablet commemorates the date of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776).

Emma Lazarus's poem, *The New Colossus*, written in 1883, appears on a plaque at the base of the statue. The poem ends with the statue herself speaking:

*“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!”*

Sites intéressants :

- Article de Karen Tumulty : www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1179361,00.html
- Statistiques sur l'immigration : www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm

LEXIQUE

En fonction du niveau de la classe, on distribuera la *Toolbox* avant ou après le *Warming up*.

TOOLBOX

Nouns

- inset: *cartouche*
- close-up ['kləʊsʌp]: *gros plan*
- photomontage [fəʊtəʊmən'tɑ:ʒ]
- spiked [spaɪkt] crown (*avec des pointes*)
- headline: *titre*
- (earth)quake: *tremblement de terre*
- feature ['fi:tʃə] article: *article de fond*
- block letters: *majuscules*
- subheading ['sʌb,hedɪŋ]: *sous-titre*
- flaming torch: *flambeau*
- land of plenty (*abondance*) / of opportunity [ɒpə'tju:nɪtɪ]

- citizen: *citoyen*
- alien ['eɪlɪən]: *étranger*
- burden ['bɜ:dn]: *fardeau*

Adjectives

- huge [hju:dʒ]: *énorme*
- stern = severe [st'viə]
- provocative [prə'vɒkətɪv] = *thought-provoking*
- illegal [ɪ'li:gəl]: *en situation irrégulière*
- undocumented [ʌn'dɒkjʊmentɪd]: *sans papiers*
- controversial [kəntrə'vɜ:ʃəl]

Verbs & expressions

- hold up [one's hand]
- signal ['sɪgnl] sb to V
- keep sb out
- bar the way
- be entitled [ɪn'taɪtld] to V: *avoir le droit de V*
- grant sb citizenship: *accorder la citoyenneté à qqn*
- strengthen ['streŋθən]: *renforcer*
- endanger = jeopardize ['dʒepədaɪz]
- take sides: *prendre parti*
- forge / form an opinion

DÉROULEMENT DE LA SÉQUENCE

1 Warming up

On pourra commencer par ne montrer que la partie supérieure, en cachant *American?* et les mots au-dessous. On demandera alors de deviner la fin de la phrase en

majuscules. Les élèves devront déduire que cette phrase est une question et que le mot manquant commence par une voyelle. Il sera sans doute nécessaire de préciser le sens du verbe *get* (*have the opportunity / possibility / right*) dans ce contexte.

On montrera assez rapidement la totalité de la couverture car celle-ci pose deux problèmes : l'un par le truchement de l'image (*Stop immigration*) et l'autre par celui de la question (*Who gets to be an American?*), qui traite de l'octroi de la nationalité américaine non seulement aux nouveaux immigrants mais également aux nombreux immigrants en situation irrégulière se trouvant déjà aux États-Unis.

2 Description

→ *This document is a Time cover, published on April 10, 2006... Except for a small inset in the top right-hand corner, the whole cover is made up of a close-up of Lady Liberty... It's not a real photo of the statue but a photomontage...*

→ *In the foreground, on the left, we can see Lady Liberty's huge right hand, the focal point of the cover... Behind it we can see her head with her spiked crown... The whole photomontage is a low-angle shot of Lady Liberty holding up her hand in the same way as a police officer stopping the traffic / signalling drivers to stop...*

→ *Above the red title a headline indicates that inside the magazine, readers will find an article or report about the San Francisco quake (April 18, 1906)... The small inset in the top right-hand corner is a medium shot of an Italian chef, Mario, in whose restaurant one can "eat, drink and be Mario" ("be merry")... Both topics will be dealt with in the magazine but aren't feature articles...*

→ *The main topic raised in this issue is summed up by the main headline: "Who gets to be an American?"... The question is written in large block letters and the word "American" has been highlighted in yellow... A subheading below explains what the cover story is about: "Inside the immigration debate that is dividing the nation"... Potential readers are also given the name of the journalist who has probably been in charge of the cover story...*

• *To what extent does the photomontage differ from the real statue?*

→ *The real Lady Liberty holds up a flaming torch in her right hand to welcome immigrants whereas in the photomontage she holds up her hand to keep immigrants out... Moreover she's sternly looking downwards in the photomontage, which is not the case with the real statue...*

3 Analyse

a. The photomontage

• *Why was Lady Liberty used to illustrate the issue of immigration?*

→ *This photomontage is highly symbolic... Lady Liberty has always stood on Liberty Island, in New York Harbour, to welcome immigrants to the US, the land of plenty and of opportunity... It's always been a symbol of freedom and*

hope, telling the world: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"... However in the photomontage, the statue seems more like a severe-looking police officer barring the way to the US... The photo stresses that the situation has dramatically changed over the years: immigrants are no longer welcomed into the US... This cover is definitely provocative / thought-provoking and so aims to incite potential readers to buy the magazine...

→ *A low-angle shot has been used in the photomontage to illustrate Lady Liberty's position of power... She, representing the American nation, is the one who will eventually decide "who gets to be an American"...*

On pourra enrichir le débat avec une question sur l'histoire de l'immigration aux États-Unis : *To what extent has the situation of immigrants changed over the last two centuries?*

b. The headline

• *What are the most important words in the headline?*

→ *The essential word is "American" and is highlighted in bright yellow... However the whole sentence is no less significant, that's why it's written in large white block letters...*

• *Is the debate only about getting into the US?*

→ *The photomontage might suggest that the debate is limited to getting or not getting into the US but the question underneath indicates that it's also about who should be entitled to become an American citizen / be granted US citizenship... It also hints at what should be done with the millions of illegal aliens / undocumented workers who are already living in the USA*... According to the subheading, that debate is quite controversial in the nation / among Americans... It means that some believe immigration is needed because it strengthens the economy whereas others are convinced that immigrants are a burden on the country, take jobs and housing and endanger / jeopardize the health care system...*

* *In 2006, there were an estimated 12 million unauthorized immigrants in the US.*

c. Time's position on immigration

→ *We may wonder whether the photomontage only reflects the opinion of some Americans or if the magazine actually takes sides... The answer is to be found inside the magazine... Time probably wants to raise the issue of immigration and will provide its readers with arguments for and against... It will be up to them to forge / form an opinion on this issue...*

4 Prolongement possible

Does the issue raised in Time apply to Europe as well? Why (not)?