ARTIFACT EXPLORATION:

Statue of Liberty Print
Theme: Symbols and Holidays
Statue of Liberty Print
http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=15&question=95
Visit the “Practice” tab to explore this object.

Before reading the information about the object, answer the following:
Describe: Objectively describe the artifact. What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

Analyze: When, where, or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user? Do you see words or images on the artifact that connect it to others (besides the creator and user)?

Evaluate: Justify why you came to those conclusions about the artifact. What further questions do you have about the object? Of those questions, which could you solve by observing the object in person and which would you need to solve with research? Why do you think this object was put into the “Symbols and Holidays” category?

Using your knowledge of these things, respond to the following questions:
1. What other significant information do you know about the Statue of Liberty?
2. What does the Statue of Liberty symbolize to Americans? What does it symbolize to immigrants? Are these visions of the Statue similar or different? Why?
3. Why do you think it was important for the artist to include depictions of each state? What significance does this hold?

Discuss:
1. How do you define liberty? How or why does this particular symbol embody liberty? Is your definition similar to or different from the one that the Statue of Liberty depicts?
2. If you were the creator of a new statue to symbolize liberty, what would you choose to create? Why?
Learn More Links

Library of Congress
(http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.04150/)
View a larger version of the lithograph here.

Ellis Island
(http://www.ellisisland.org)
Search for a passenger and learn more about the history of Ellis Island.

Suggested Extension Activities

- Research an ancestor or a notable immigrant on the Ellis Island website.
- Create a fictional journal entry from the perspective of someone entering the United States through Ellis Island.
- Find additional paintings or drawings of the Statue of Liberty and compare the different interpretations.
- Research additional national symbols, including those in the Symbols and Holidays theme (http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=15). Are the ideals that these symbols represent similar to those of the Statue of Liberty?