

Have you ever been to New York City? There are many exciting things to see. One sight is the famous Brooklyn Bridge. It was built more than 100 years ago. Another is the Empire State Building. It is one of the tallest buildings in the world. You can take an elevator ride to the top of the building. From there, you can see for miles. One of the best things to see in New York is the Statue of Liberty. It stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The best way to see the statue is to go to Battery Park. Stand in Battery Park looking out at the water. The Statue of Liberty is across the harbor in front of you. To the right you will see Ellis Island. Behind you is an old fort that you can explore. You can take a ferry from Battery Park to Liberty Island, if you want to see the statue up close. The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet high. It was given to the United States by France in 1884. The statue is a woman in a long robe holding a torch, and she stands for freedom. Since 1886, millions of people have visited the Statue of Liberty. For many people who came here by ship from other countries, the Statue of Liberty was the first thing they saw. It is an important symbol of our nation.

There are about 250 kinds of turtles. Most turtles live near fresh water. They spend part of their time swimming in the water and part of it on land. Not all turtles live this way, though. Land turtles, also known as tortoises, do not swim at all. Sea turtles live nearly their whole lives in salt water. Tortoises are slow and steady. They have short, thick back legs. Their flat front legs are built like shovels and are very good for digging. Tortoises have high, rounded shells, too. Many tortoises can pull their heads, legs, and tails inside their shells. They quickly do so at any sign of danger. Their strong shells protect them from animals that might want to eat them. Turtles have no teeth. Instead they have strong beaks that can cut food like a pair of scissors. Unlike most other turtles, tortoises eat only plants. Tortoises hatch from eggs. The female tortoise digs a hole, lays some eggs, and covers them with dirt. When the baby tortoises hatch, they must dig their way out of the hole. They never know their mother. The largest tortoises can grow to four feet long. They may weigh up to 600 pounds. Sea Turtles Like tortoises, sea turtles lay their eggs on land. The female turtle comes out of the ocean onto the beach. She digs a hole, lays her eggs, and returns to the sea. When the baby turtles hatch, they head straight for the water. The trip across the beach can be dangerous! Many animals come to the beach to eat the little turtles as they crawl toward the water. After they reach the water, male sea turtles never return to land. Females return only to lay their eggs. Sea turtles can swim very fast. Their front legs are built like paddles. They use them like wings to “fly” through the water. Although most turtles can pull their heads and legs inside their shells, sea turtles cannot. The green sea turtle eats only plants. Other sea turtles eat both plants and animals. The largest of all sea turtles is the leatherback. It can weigh over 1,000 pounds. Its favorite food is jellyfish.