

VISIT PHILADELPHIA

★ ★ ★ SEE THE ★ ★ ★
LIBERTY BELL!

You see the Liberty Bell everywhere, on stamps, coins, and posters. Why not come to Philadelphia and see it in person? It's on display in Independence Square in the heart of the city. You cannot touch it, and no one has heard it ring since 1848, but it is a powerful symbol of America.

The Bell's Early Days

In towns long ago, a ringing bell got everyone's attention. If you heard a bell, it meant there was important news. That was true of the State House bell in Philadelphia, hung in 1753. It was not yet the Liberty Bell, and America was not yet a country.

Then everything changed. When the Declaration of Independence was read in public on July 8, 1776, bells

rang all over the thirteen colonies, telling people the news. That was the beginning of people's strong feelings about the bell in Philadelphia's State House.

What the Bell Stands For

The State House is the birthplace of the United States of America. The first leaders of the colonies met there. Important documents, like the Declaration of Independence, were first discussed there. Remember, the bell was at the very top of the State House. It's no surprise that the bell has come to stand for freedom and independence.

There is a funny twist in the Liberty Bell's story. Because of the crack in its side, it cannot be rung. But that means

it can be used in other ways. After the Civil War, a train carried it all over the country. Its first trip was in 1885. People lined the tracks to see it pass by on an open railroad car. The bell made them feel proud to be Americans. It reminded them of America's hard fight to be free.

