

# CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

## *Kids' Edition*

Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates freedom and the end of slavery in the United States. It honors June 19, 1865, the day when over 250,000 enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. African American communities have observed Juneteenth for over 150 years. June 19 continues to be a day of remembrance and celebration across the country.

- In the 1860s, the American Civil War was fought between northern states (known as the Union) and southern states (known as the Confederacy) over the issue of slavery.
- In January 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to free enslaved people in Confederate states.
- Because of the War, the Emancipation Proclamation couldn't be enforced in places controlled by the Confederacy, like Texas. When the War ended in April 1865, Union soldiers were finally able to travel across the South to carry out the rule.
- On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas and spread word that enslaved African Americans were free. This date was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.
- In December 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution officially ended slavery in all U.S. states.
- African American communities in Texas organized the first Juneteenth celebrations in 1866.
- Juneteenth combines the words "June" and "nineteenth."
- Texas officially named Juneteenth a state holiday in 1980, over 110 years after the first celebrations began!
- The U.S. government recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021!
- The holiday is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipation Day.
- Communities across the nation celebrate Juneteenth with parades, marches, barbecues, picnics, performances, and other special events.
- Everyone can celebrate Juneteenth! It is a time for all of us to reflect on the strength and resilience of the Black community and celebrate Black pride, culture, and experiences.



### Special Thanks

Nickelodeon extends appreciation to **BlackPast** and **National Museum of African American History and Culture** for their informational Juneteenth resources. Additional thanks to **The Conscious Kid**, an education, research, and policy organization that supports families in taking action to disrupt racism, inequity, and bias.