

# JUNETEENTH

## FIND OUT MORE

### THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

#### Historical Recognition:

##### Acknowledge the End of Enslavement:

Juneteenth marks the official end of enslavement in the United States, specifically commemorating June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger announced the end of enslavement in Galveston, Texas. This acknowledgment is crucial for understanding American history and the long struggle for freedom.

##### Educational Opportunity:

It provides a platform to educate people about the history of enslavement, the Civil War, and the subsequent struggle for civil rights. Understanding this history helps in comprehending the ongoing issues of racial inequality and injustice.

#### Cultural Significance:

##### Celebrate African American Culture and Heritage:

Juneteenth is a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements, and contributions of African Americans. It highlights the resilience, creativity, and strength of African American communities.

##### Preserve Traditions:

Commemorating Juneteenth helps preserve African American traditions, including music, dance, food, and storytelling, passing them down to future generations.

#### Promote Unity and Healing:

##### Community Building:

Juneteenth celebrations often bring together people of all backgrounds, fostering unity and a sense of community. It's a time for collective reflection and coming together to support each other.

##### Healing from Historical Trauma:

Recognizing and commemorating Juneteenth is a step towards healing the wounds of the past. It acknowledges the suffering and injustices faced by enslaved people and honors their resilience and struggle for freedom.

#### Highlight Ongoing Struggles:

##### Address Systemic Racism:

Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the ongoing fight against systemic racism and inequality. It highlights the need for continued efforts to achieve true equality and justice for all.

##### Encourage Activism:

The holiday is a call to action, encouraging individuals and communities to engage in social justice initiatives, advocate for policy changes, and support movements that aim to dismantle racism.

#### National Reflection:

##### Recognize National Progress:

Commemorating Juneteenth allows the nation to reflect on its progress toward racial equality and recognize the areas where further improvement is needed.

##### Promote Awareness:

As Juneteenth becomes more widely recognized, it promotes awareness and understanding of African American history and experiences, fostering empathy and respect across different communities.

#### Federal Holiday Significance:

##### Legitimizes the Struggle for Freedom:

The designation of Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021 underscores its importance and legitimizes the historical and ongoing struggles for freedom and equality.

##### Encourages Broader Participation:

As a federal holiday, Juneteenth encourages broader participation in its celebrations and commemorations, helping to integrate its significance into the national consciousness.





## TIMELINE

### Difficulties Faced by Formerly Enslaved People After the Emancipation Proclamation

#### January 1, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation Issued

Immediate Reaction: The proclamation declared all enslaved people in Confederate states to be free, but it did not immediately liberate all enslaved individuals. News traveled slowly, and enforcement depended on the advance of Union troops.

#### 1863-1865: Civil War Continues

Resistance and Retaliation: Many Confederate states resisted the proclamation. Enslaved people who attempted to escape or assert their freedom often faced violent reprisals.

Limited Mobility: Even as Union forces advanced, many formerly enslaved people found it difficult to leave plantations due to lack of resources, fear of violence, and legal barriers.

#### April 9, 1865: End of the Civil War

Transition to Freedom: With the Confederacy's defeat, the emancipation of enslaved people began to be more widely enforced. However, this transition was fraught with challenges.

Economic Hardship: Formerly enslaved individuals had no property, money, or education, making it difficult to find employment and sustain themselves.

#### June 19, 1865: Juneteenth

Freedom in Texas: Union General Gordon Granger announced the end of enslavement in Texas, the last state to be reached by Union troops. This date is commemorated as Juneteenth.

#### 1865-1866: Black Codes Enacted

Legal Restrictions: Southern states enacted Black Codes to restrict the freedom of African Americans, limiting their ability to work, travel, and own property.

Forced Labor: Many codes included vagrancy laws that criminalized unemployment, forcing African Americans into labor contracts that were often exploitative.

#### December 6, 1865: 13th Amendment Ratified

Abolition of Slavery: The 13th Amendment abolished slavery throughout the United States. However, it did not provide economic or social support for formerly enslaved individuals.

#### 1865-1877: Reconstruction Era

Freedmen's Bureau (March 3, 1865): Established to aid formerly enslaved people by providing food, housing, education, and legal assistance. However, it was underfunded and faced significant opposition.

Violence and Intimidation: Groups like the Ku Klux Klan emerged, using terror to prevent African Americans from exercising their new rights and to maintain white supremacy.

#### April 9, 1866: Civil Rights Act of 1866

Citizenship and Equal Protection: The Civil Rights Act aimed to provide equal protection under the law. Despite

this, enforcement was weak, and discrimination persisted.

#### July 9, 1868: 14th Amendment Ratified

Equal Protection: The 14th Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and promised equal protection under the law.

#### February 3, 1870: 15th Amendment Ratified

Voting Rights: The 15th Amendment granted African American men the right to vote. However, Southern states used literacy tests, poll taxes, and other means to disenfranchise them.

#### March 4, 1877: End of Reconstruction

Withdrawal of Federal Troops: The Compromise of 1877 ended Reconstruction, leading to the withdrawal of federal troops from the South and leaving African Americans vulnerable to renewed oppression.

Rise of Jim Crow Laws: Southern states enacted Jim Crow laws, institutionalizing racial segregation and disenfranchisement.

#### Late 19th Century - Early 20th Century: Continued Struggles

Sharecropping and Debt Peonage: Many African Americans became sharecroppers, trapped in a cycle of debt and poverty.

Lynching and Racial Violence: Lynching and other forms of racial violence were widespread, with little legal recourse for African Americans.

#### 1916-1970: Great Migration

Seeking Better Opportunities: Many African Americans migrated to Northern cities to escape Southern oppression and seek better economic opportunities.

Urban Challenges: In the North, they faced overcrowded housing, discrimination in employment, and racial tensions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### CELEBRATE

Downtown Akron Partnership 2024 Juneteenth Events  
<https://www.downtownakron.com/explore/juneteenth>

### EDUCATE

Juneteenth: What You Need to Know | History  
<https://youtu.be/MR3WqYI6wco>

Juneteenth: The story behind the 155-year-old holiday that commemorates the end of slavery  
<https://youtu.be/W0I3MBzg8RQ>

The Origins of Juneteenth: Marking the end of slavery in the U.S.  
<https://youtu.be/5X0V0Ld003E>

What is Juneteenth? History behind holiday celebrating the end of slavery  
<https://youtu.be/C6lybD2-BaE>



Juneteenth Website  
<https://www.juneteenth.com/history/>

### INVESTIGATE

'It's the Freedom for Me': Brands Have Already Ruined Juneteenth  
<https://jezebel.com/its-the-freedom-for-me-brands-have-already-ruined-june-1848964907>

Frederick Douglass: The Meaning of July 4th for the Negro  
<https://youtu.be/uRvQL8-Gokg>

The REAL Deal... Good Ole Abe and The Emancipation Proclamation  
<https://youtu.be/KWm8AF4Kp1A>



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