

# UNDERSTANDING "JUNETEENTH"

**JUNE 19TH, 1865**

**AS OF JUNE 2021, OBSERVED AS A U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY**

Also Known As: Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, & Black Independence Day

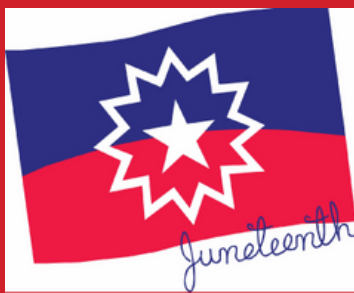
## HISTORICAL "END" OF SLAVERY



1863: Emancipation Proclamation declares "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free." However, many slave owners continued to hold their enslaved people captive after the announcement.

June 19TH 1865: Two years following the declaration, Major General Gordon Granger finally arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of the Civil War **and the end of slavery!**

## JUNETEENTH FLAG



- Created in 1997 by Ben Haith and revised by Lisa Jeanne Graf
- **Red, White, & Blue** - Represents that freed slaves and their descendants are true Americans, too
- **Arc in red**- Represents a new horizon, fresh opportunities and new beginnings
- **Star** - Represents Texas, the lone star state, where the first Juneteenth celebration took place in 1865
- **Burst around the star** - Represents a super nova, a new star, that implies a new beginning for all

## CONTINUED FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Still, today, over 150 years since the "freedom of slaves," Black people, specifically Black Americans, experience unfair treatment, inequality, and racism that affect their everyday lives. Present-day examples of this consist of police brutality and murders, including but not limited to those of, Caron Nazario, George Floyd, Breona Taylor, and many more.

The BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement has forced Americans to open their eyes to the systemic racism that is rooted in our society & history, and make it clear that their lives are valuable & irreplaceable.

## WAYS TO CELEBRATE



- Attend parades & community gatherings - if possible
- Eat or make **red** foods - such as, watermelon, red beans and rice, red velvet cake, & more
  - The color **red** symbolizes the blood shed during the Black American's road to freedom
- Relax and reflect - take time to gather with loved ones and the community and have discussions
- Educate yourself - watch a movie or read a book about Black American history and the end of slavery

### WAYS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BLACK COMMUNITY



BOOKS TO READ: *ON JUNETEENTH*, *JUNETEENTH FOR MAZIE*  
PODCASTS TO LISTEN TO: *CODE SWITCH*, *LOUDER THAN A RIOT*  
MOVIES TO WATCH: *MISS JUNETEENTH*, *13TH*



HAPPY LEARNING & JUNETEENTH!