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Diversity Corner

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What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth, also called Freedom Day, African American Independence Day, Jubilee Day, or Emancipation Day, is a federal holiday (as of June 17, 2021!) celebrating emancipation from slavery in the United States. A combination of “June” and “nineteenth,” this day commemorates the proclamation of freedom for enslaved people in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865.

During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863. This was an executive order which declared that enslaved people in the Confederate states were free. However, it wasn’t until **June 19, 1865**— 2.5 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, and 2 months after the Civil War ended— that those enslaved in Galveston, Texas (the westernmost state in the Confederacy) were released from slavery. On that day, approximately 2,000 Union troops led by Major-General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston to announce that the Civil War was over and that the 250,000+ enslaved people in Texas were officially free.

On the evening of June 19, 1865, thousands flooded the streets of Galveston, rejoicing in their newly announced freedom. The sweet smell of barbecue smoke filled the air. Dancing feet pounded the dirt roads and harmonic voices sung spirituals. This was the day, Juneteenth, that would forever commemorate African American freedom. Juneteenth is now a Federal Holiday.



To learn more check out the video's below. You will be glad you did.

Juneteenth: 1865 – 2021 : 7 segment series - KHOU News – out of Houston TX

In Celebration of JUNETEENTH 19th, 2022 -

Awareness Videos

Segment 1: (10mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d6uO3qlhnw>

Segment 2: (3 Mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAXXgGpPtHw>

Segment 3: (3 Mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II80fNT8HPs>

Segment 4: (10mins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9_7nsRHUhE

Segment 5: (10mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOz6BRiooQM>

Segment 6: (2 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph6-Aklqv7Y>

Segment 7: (4 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pISqBawgfWk>