

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Read the passage below about Juneteenth.

Have you heard of Juneteenth? **Juneteenth** is a special holiday in the United States. It celebrates when slavery ended after the Civil War. The Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865. During the war, President Lincoln announced an end to slavery. After the war was over, however, many African American people were still enslaved. There weren't televisions to spread the news that slavery was ending!



Juneteenth is a combination of the words "**June**" and "**nineteenth**." On that day in 1865, a general in the army made an announcement in Galveston, Texas. He shared the news that enslaved people in Texas were free! The people who were enslaved wanted to keep that day special. So, they made it a holiday called Juneteenth. They wanted to celebrate the day they learned they were free.

Later, African American people all over the country started to celebrate Juneteenth, too. In 2021, Juneteenth became a holiday across the whole country! It is often spent with family, singing songs together, or having cookouts. Many people also spend Juneteenth trying to help their communities. They volunteer by donating food or by signing people up to vote. Some people also teach about African American history.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks. You do not have to use all of the words.

~~Texas~~ ~~nineteenth~~ ~~June~~ ~~slavery~~ army ~~free~~

Juneteenth is a holiday that combines the words June and nineteenth.

It celebrates the day that many enslaved people learned they were free. At the

end of the Civil War, the army made an announcement in the state of Texas. The

announcement said that slavery was ending, so many people celebrated. Over time,

the whole country started celebrating Juneteenth!

What are some ways people celebrate Juneteenth?

Answers may vary. Options may include spending time with family, singing songs, having cookouts, volunteering, and learning about African American history.