

Social studies

Grade 3

Juneteenth worksheet: the road to freedom

Read why June 19, 1865 matters and build a freedom timeline.



I can explain why Juneteenth is celebrated and put key events in time order.

1



Why June 19?



For more than 200 years, millions of Black people in America were enslaved. They were forced to work without pay and had no freedom.

During the Civil War, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It said that enslaved people in the states fighting against the Union were free. But news traveled slowly, and many enslavers did not follow it.

The Civil War ended in the spring of 1865. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that all enslaved people there were free. It was more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

In December 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution ended slavery in the whole country. The next year, people in Texas began celebrating June 19 as Juneteenth. In 2021, Juneteenth became a national holiday. Today, people celebrate with picnics, music, reading and remembering history.

2



17

Freedom timeline

Write 1 to 5 in the boxes.

☐

Juneteenth becomes a national holiday.

☐

Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation.

☐

The 13th Amendment ends slavery in the whole country.

☐

People in Galveston, Texas, hear they are free.

☐

People in Texas hold the first Juneteenth celebrations.

3



Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

enslaved

☐

proclamation

☐

emancipation

☐

amendment



● A. Being set free.

● B. A change added to the Constitution.

● C. Forced to work without pay or freedom.

● D. An official public announcement.

4

**Check your reading**

Circle the best answer.

1. Where did the news of freedom arrive on June 19, 1865?

A Galveston, Texas

B Boston, Massachusetts

C Atlanta, Georgia

2. About how long after the Emancipation Proclamation was June 19, 1865?

A 2 months

B more than 2 years

C 10 years

3. In which year did Juneteenth become a national holiday?

A 1865

B 1963

C 2021

5

**True or false**

Circle the right answer. Look in the text.

1. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

True

False

2. The Civil War ended in 1865.

True

False

3. Juneteenth is on July 4.

True

False

4. The 13th Amendment ended slavery in the whole country.

True

False

5. The news of freedom reached everyone right away.

True

False

6. People celebrate Juneteenth with picnics and music.

True

False

6

**Date math**

Use the dates in the text. Write the answer.

1. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January _____, 1863.

2. From 1863 to 1865 is _____ years.

3. From June to December is _____ months.

4. From 1865 to 2021 is _____ years.

5. Juneteenth is on June _____.

6. 2021 was the 1st year as a national holiday. 2026 is the _____th year.

7



Fact or opinion?

Write each sentence in the right column.

Juneteenth became a national holiday in 2021.

Picnics are the best way to celebrate.

Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas.

Juneteenth is the most fun holiday.

The 13th Amendment ended slavery.

Everyone should love history class.

Fact

Opinion

8



Think deeper

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did many enslaved people in Texas hear about freedom so late?

A News traveled slowly, and many enslavers did not follow the order.

B Texas had no people.

C There were no soldiers in 1865.

2. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

A How to cook for a picnic

B How slavery ended everywhere and how Juneteenth became a holiday

C Why Lincoln became president

3. Which word means the same as "announced"?

A hid

B declared

C forgot

9



Why remember?

Why do you think it is important to remember Juneteenth today? Use one detail from the text.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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During the Civil War, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It said that enslaved people in the states fighting against the Union were free. But news traveled slowly, and many enslavers did not follow it.

The Civil War ended in the spring of 1865. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that all enslaved people there were free. It was more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

In December 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution ended slavery in the whole country. The next year, people in Texas began celebrating June 19 as Juneteenth. In 2021, Juneteenth became a national holiday. Today, people celebrate with picnics, music, reading and remembering history.

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Freedom timeline

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4. The 13th Amendment ended slavery in the whole country.

True

False

5. The news of freedom reached everyone right away.

True

False

6. People celebrate Juneteenth with picnics and music.

True

False

6

**Date math**

Use the dates in the text. Write the answer.

1. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863.

2. From 1863 to 1865 is 2 years.

3. From June to December is 6 months.

4. From 1865 to 2021 is 156 years.

5. Juneteenth is on June 19.

6. 2021 was the 1st year as a national holiday. 2026 is the 6th year.

7



Fact or opinion?

Write each sentence in the right column.

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Picnics are the best way to celebrate.

Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas.

Juneteenth is the most fun holiday.

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Fact

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Why remember?

Answers vary. Example: It reminds us that freedom came late for many people. The news reached Galveston more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, so remembering helps us value freedom for everyone.

How did it go?



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