

What is Juneteenth?

On 06/19/1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger issued Order No. 3 informing the enslaved of Galveston, Texas of their freedom.

Wait...what about the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation?

While the Proclamation freed all the enslaved in the rebellious states (Confederacy), many people did not know.

What happened then?

The newly freed population left if possible but many persons faced discrimination and harassment. Granger actually urged people to remain in place and collect wages.

How did the celebration become popular today?

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s planned Poor People's March coincided with the date, bringing it back to national attention. Texas became the first state to declare it a state holiday in 1980.



Partial Transcription of the Emancipation Proclamation (01/01/1863)

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States.

...Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons."

Questions...

1. What did this document actually do - who did it free?
2. What did that mean for people living in the "rebellious" and "non-rebellious" states?



Transcription of General Granger's Order No. 3 (06/19/1865)

"All persons formerly slaves are earnestly enjoined to remain with their former masters, under such contracts as may be made for the present time. Their own interest as well as that of their former masters, or other parties requiring their services, renders such a course necessary and of vital importance, until permanent arrangements are made under the auspices of the Freedman's Bureau. It must be borne in mind, in this connection, that cruel treatment or improper use of the authority's given to employers will not be permitted, whilst both parties to the contract made, will be equally bound to its fulfillment on their part.

No persons formerly slaves will be permitted to travel on the public thoroughfares without passes or permits from their employers, or to congregate in buildings or camps at or adjacent to any military post or town. They will not be subsisted in idleness, or in any way except as employees of the Government, or in cases of extreme destitution or sickness, and in such cases the officers authorized to order the issues, shall be the judge as to the justice of the claim for such subsistence. Idleness is sure to be productive of vice, and humanity dictates that employment be furnished these people, while the interest of the commonwealth imperatively demands it, in order that the present crop may be secured. No person, white or black, and who are able to labor, will be subsisted by the Government in idleness, and thus hang as a dead weight upon those who are disposed to bear their full share of the public burdens. Provost Marshals and their assistants throughout the District are charged with using every means in their power to carry out the instructions in letter and spirit."

Questions...

1. What did document mean for the persons living in Texas in 1865?
2. What could people do?
3. What could people not do?
4. Why was this Proclamation so important when the Emancipation Proclamation freed people during the Civil War?



Write Your Proclamation!

What do you want the people to know?

How can we teach people to respectfully commemorate this holiday?

What do you think is the most important part of Juneteenth?

Choose a piece of paper and pencil/pen and start writing!

Craft a Juneteenth Flag!

What does the Juneteenth Flag represent?

- A star of Texas bursting with new freedom, over the horizon
- A new freedom, people, star
- The American colors of red, white, and blue
- Freedom and African-American history



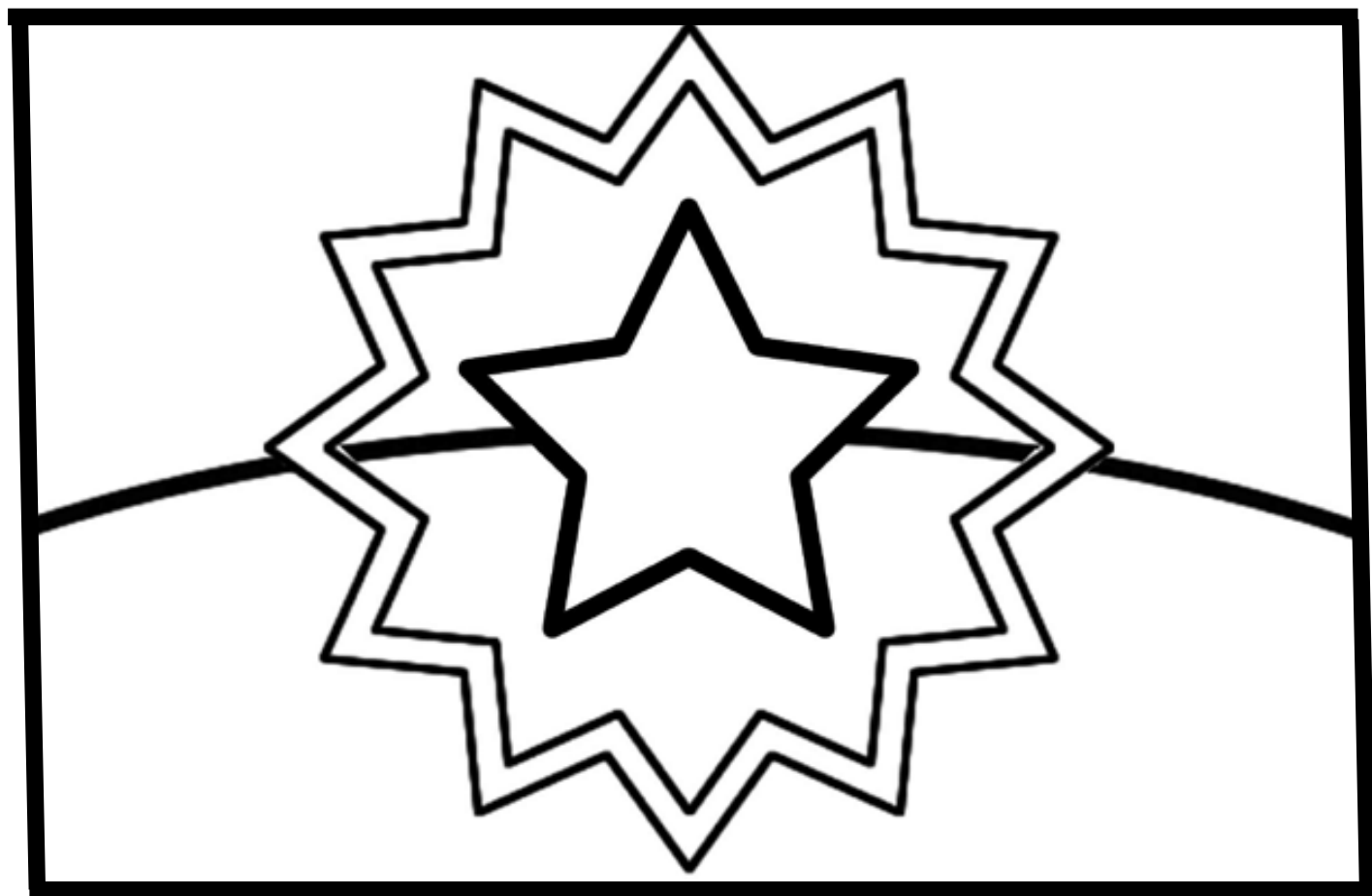


Juneteenth 2020 Proclamation!





Craft and/or Color a Juneteenth Flag!



What does the Juneteenth Flag represent?

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 - Freedom and African-American history
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