



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Seashells

Issue 23, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam

A Day in June



photo by Carol M. Highsmith

On June 19, many Americans will celebrate Juneteenth. The holiday honors the end of slavery in the United States. This week, The Mini Page learns more about this special day and the historical events surrounding it.

Delayed freedom

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all enslaved people, took effect on Jan. 1, 1863. But until the Civil War ended in April 1865, more than two years later, there weren't enough **Union**, or northern, soldiers to enforce the order.

Juneteenth celebrates the day that Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that the 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were free.



photo by ZCZK Photography

A boy takes part in Juneteenth festivities in Galveston in 2019.

As part of the announcement, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger said:

"... all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves." This meant that if enslaved people stayed to work, they would be employees and would have to be paid a wage.

Some former slaves remained in Texas, but others headed north or into neighboring

states to find family members.

June 19 became a day to gather with family and celebrate freedom.

Celebration

Most early Juneteenth holidays took place at parks or churches. Some white employers allowed their workers the day off and even donated food and money. But during the Depression of the 1920s and '30s, many people were forced to move to cities to find work, and employers there were not as generous in recognizing Juneteenth.



People celebrate in Austin, Texas, on June 19, 1900.

photo courtesy Austin History Center

As the civil rights movement grew stronger in the mid-20th century, the idea of freedom re-energized Juneteenth celebrations. Younger generations brought the holiday to cities that hadn't observed it before.

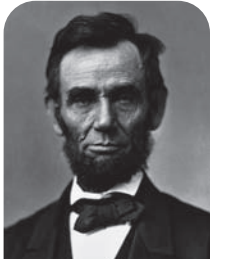
In 1980, Texas made Juneteenth a state holiday. Today, most states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday, along with it being an official federal holiday.

Will you celebrate Juneteenth this year? Talk with classmates and friends about how you mark this day and other historical holidays.

Lincoln's proclamation

President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was signed in Washington, D.C. In part, his order read:

"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.



Abraham Lincoln

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages. ...

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God."

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPJuneteenth

At the library:

- "Juneteenth Is" by Natasha Tripplett
- "The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States" by Alliah L. Agostini

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Juneteenth are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CHURCH, CIVIL WAR, ENSLAVED, FAMILY, FEDERAL, GALVESTON, GRANGER, HOLIDAY, JUNETEENTH, JUSTICE, LINCOLN, MILITARY, PARK, STATES, TEXAS, WAGE, WASHINGTON.

S T A T E S J U S T I C E M X
N O T S E V L A G S A X E T U
W M M I L I T A R Y V L L U G
X X M W H O L I D A Y F A S R
J U N E T E E N T H T Y R Z A
X E G A W I E N S L A V E D N
P P U C I V I L W A R K D R G
A N O T G N I H S A W L E Y E
R D N L O C N I L M Z S F T R
K D F A M I L Y Y C H U R C H



Mini Jokes



Michael: What's the best time to have a parade?
Michelle: March!

Eco Note



Bird experts are asking residents across the United States and Canada to help prevent the up to 30 bird deaths per second that can occur during the spring migration from Feb. 15 to June 15 due to collisions with human-made objects. "Up to a billion birds die each year in the United States when they crash into windows and other structures made with reflective or transparent material," said Andrew Farnsworth at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He recommends homeowners turn off nonessential lighting from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., or draw curtains.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

Cook's Corner

Barbecue Baked Potato Chips

You'll need:

- cooking spray
- 4 medium Yukon gold potatoes, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 2 teaspoons mesquite seasoning

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat large baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. Arrange potato slices on baking sheet. Spray potato slices with cooking spray.
3. Sprinkle potatoes with mesquite seasoning.
4. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until potatoes are golden brown and crisp. Serves 4.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for notices about Juneteenth events in your community.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



1. Liberty; release from something unpleasant or very bad (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. Past events, especially those about a place or subject (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. Special day when businesses and schools may be closed (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. To observe an important time in a special way (9-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. President Abraham Lincoln gave _____ to slaves in 1863.
2. In class, students study the _____ of Juneteenth.
3. June 19 was officially named a federal _____.
4. People will _____ with music and stories.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Freedom, History, Holiday, Celebrate.

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