

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Parent And Family Edition

Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates freedom and the end of slavery in the United States. It honors the day over 250,000 enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. Juneteenth, short for "June nineteenth," has been observed by African American communities for over 150 years and continues to be celebrated in cities and towns across the country every year on June 19. Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipation Day.



Learn more about Juneteenth from **Clyde McBride** from Nickelodeon's *The Loud House*.

History

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas and spread word that enslaved African Americans in Texas were free. This was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, an order granting freedom to enslaved African Americans in all Confederate states. Because of the American Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation couldn't be enforced in places under Confederate control. When the Civil War ended in April 1865, Union soldiers were finally able to reach Texas with the news. Later that year, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution officially ended slavery in all U.S. states.



Read more about the **history of Juneteenth** with BlackPast.

Today's Celebrations

While many newly freed African Americans stayed in Texas, tens of thousands left in search of new opportunities and brought their families, holidays, and traditions with them across the U.S. Juneteenth celebrations spread and it became a day each year to celebrate and rejoice in their freedom.

African American communities have celebrated Juneteenth since its first anniversary in 1866. Over 110 years later, in 1980, Texas officially named Juneteenth a state holiday. In 2021, Juneteenth was recognized by the U.S. government as a federal holiday. Communities across the U.S. celebrate Juneteenth with parades, marches, barbecues, picnics, performances, and other special events.

Juneteenth is more than a holiday. It is a time to reflect on the strength and resilience of the Black community and celebrate Black pride, culture, and experience. This dedicated time to reflect and celebrate remains especially important today as Black people continue to experience unfair treatment, violence, and racism.

Reflect and Celebrate!

- For Black families, Juneteenth can be a time to talk about your community's fight for justice. Your family may have their very own everyday heroes, like Blake and Olivia in *Little Lens*! Listen to them share about the [bravery and strength of their family members](#), then share stories of your own.
- Reading is a great way to learn about people's experiences in the world, their histories, and cultures. Explore [The Conscious Kid's Juneteenth booklist](#).
- As a family, learn more about the [Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the role Black people played in the War](#) with Dr. Clint Smith in Crash Course Black History. Then, investigate other important [moments in Black history](#) that have defined and shaped the course of American history.
- Juneteenth's history and meaning can be the start to broader conversations about slavery, race, and racism. Parents and caregivers, consider using the [National Museum of African American History and Culture: Kids Understanding and Celebrating Juneteenth](#) to help you navigate more in-depth conversations about slavery and freedom with young children. For parents with older children, Nickelodeon and The Conscious Kids' [Talk and Talk Action: Guide to Dismantling Anti-Blackness](#) will support family conversations about racism and provide actions you can take together to combat anti-Blackness and celebrate Black culture.
- Be proud of who you are! Black families can [celebrate Black joy](#) with daily affirmations. [Affirmations](#) are powerful reminders of your unique gifts, strengths, and abilities! Practice as a family: "We are strong. We are brave. We are kind. [We are like nobody else.](#)" Every family can stand in solidarity with the Black community by learning and sharing more about the history of slavery in the United States, the resilience of Black people, and the meaning of the Juneteenth holiday.
- Everyone can celebrate Juneteenth! Join Nick characters and talent as they [celebrate freedom](#), sing and dance along with the [Noggin's Freedom Dance Party](#), and keep an eye out for the special Juneteenth episode of [Tyler Perry's Young Dylan and Juneteenth: A Nick News Special](#).

Want to learn more? Nick is here to help.

[Nick Helps.com](#)

for kids of all ages

[NickParents.com](#)

for parents and caregivers

[NickCommunity.com](#)

for youth organizations and educators

Special Thanks

Nickelodeon extends appreciation to [The Conscious Kid](#), an education, research, and policy organization that supports families in taking action to disrupt racism, inequity, and bias. Additional thanks to Laura Stricker and Janella Watson for their contributions to this guide.

