

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



Juneteenth

Answer the questions below after researching Juneteenth. Use full sentences!

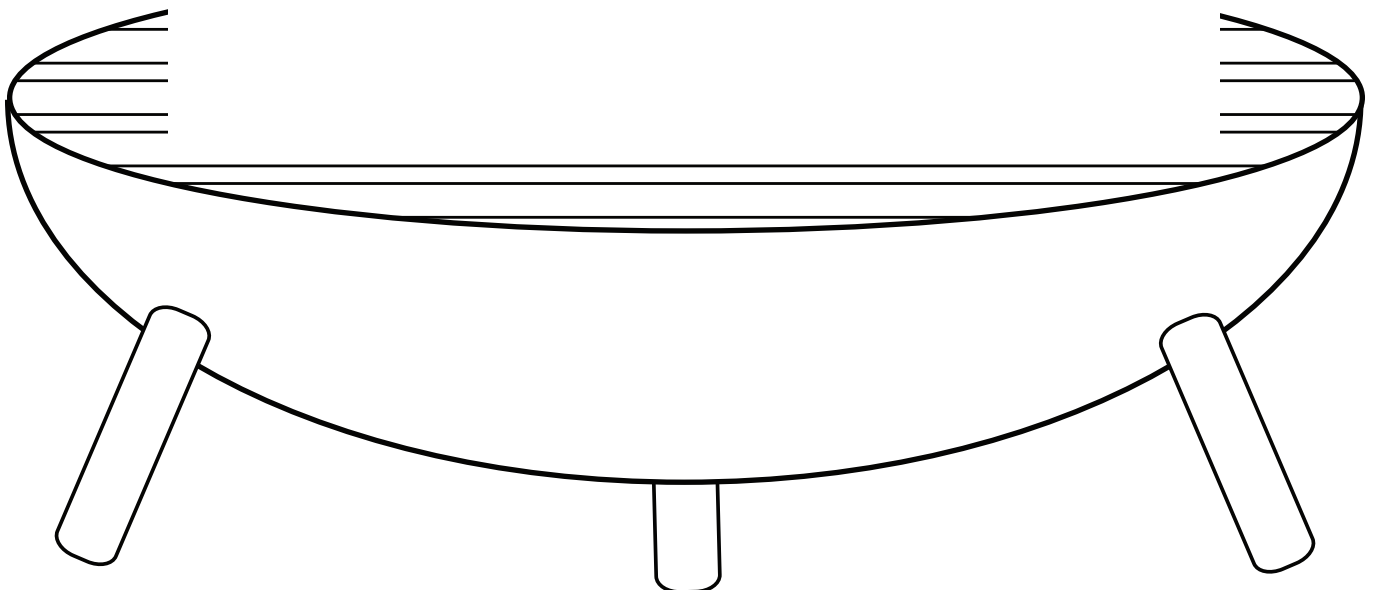
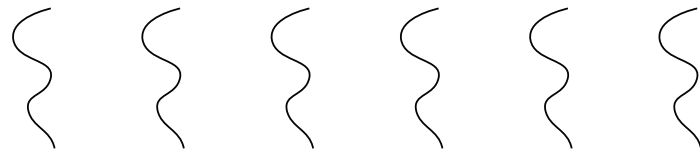
What is Juneteenth?

Why do we celebrate Juneteenth?

J is for Juneteenth

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in America. It began as an African-American holiday of feasting, dancing, and singing. Today, many different people celebrate Juneteenth, with activities as different as fishing, baseball games, and barbecues.

What things need to change in the world to make Juneteenth truly a reality? Write them on the grill.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Celebrating Juneteenth



The Juneteenth celebration, observed every year on June 19th, is a reminder of the end of slavery in the United States. The freeing of slaves started with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. *Emancipation* means *setting free from another's power*. When slaves were emancipated, they were made into free men and women. The Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863, but it wasn't until two and a half years later, on

June 19, 1865, that the last of the slaves in Texas were freed. On this day, General Granger and his Union troops rode into Galveston, Texas with the news that the war had ended, and that all slaves were now free. General Granger brought with him "General Order Number 3". His reading of the order, and the news that slaves were now free men and women, was greeted with shock and excitement. Some slaves stayed on the plantations, and kept on working. The difference was that they were now free workers, and were paid. But many more left the plantations, as they felt that this was the first step towards freedom. Some went north, and others headed off to find family in neighboring states. It was a very insecure time for the former slaves as they tried to fit into a society that had previously only thought of them as slaves. The celebration of June 19 every year gave stability to the lives of the members of the black community as they established themselves. Soon the June 19th celebration was known as "Juneteenth".

However, towards the turn of the century, the Juneteenth celebrations began to die down. Young people didn't feel the same connection with the emancipation of the slaves. During the time of the Depression many people moved into cities, and it was difficult for them to take time off to celebrate Juneteenth. Then, during the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, Juneteenth celebrations gathered new strength. On January 1, 1980, the Juneteenth celebrations received status as an official state holiday in Texas, through the efforts of state legislator Al Edwards. Since then several states have followed Texas in making Juneteenth a state holiday.

Juneteenth is a time for African-Americans and others living in the community to get together and celebrate their freedom. There are many barbecue feasts and gatherings on Juneteenth, and one special treat often found at Juneteenth celebrations is strawberry soda-pop. Juneteenth is a time to eat and drink with friends and celebrate what happened a long time ago in Texas, but why is this celebration still important today? To many African-Americans, Juneteenth is as important as any country's Independence Day. It is a celebration of freedom and togetherness. The fight to end slavery was a battle fought by many men and women. Let's all celebrate the victory by recognizing and joining in the Juneteenth celebration!



Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions on the Juneteenth celebrations.

1. When is Juneteenth celebrated?

2. What does *emancipation* mean?

3. When did the Emancipation Proclamation become official?

4. Who rode into Texas on June 19, 1865, and what did he bring with him?

5. After June 19, 1865, some of the former slaves continued to work on the plantations. What was different?

6. Why did people start celebrating Juneteenth?

7. Who was Al Edwards?

8. What is one special drink often found at Juneteenth celebrations?

9. Write a short paragraph on why you think it is important to continue celebrating Juneteenth.

Answers to Juneteenth.

1. Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19 every year.
2. Emancipation means the setting free from another's power.
3. The Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863.
4. General Granger rode into Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, and he brought with him General Order Number 3.
5. After June 19, some former slaves continued to work on the plantations, but the difference was that they were now free men and women, and were paid.
6. The celebration of June 19 every year gave stability to the lives of the members of the black community as they established themselves.
7. Al Edwards was an African-American state legislator in Texas. He helped Juneteenth gain recognition throughout the state and on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas.
8. Strawberry soda-pop is a special drink often found at Juneteenth celebrations.
9. Individual student answers.

The Emancipation Proclamation

January 1, 1863

A Transcription By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"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."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

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.

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 I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

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. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM NCOLN
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Emancipation Proclamation Questions

- 1) In this document, what ultimatum was given the states that had seceded from the Union?
- 2) How did the Emancipation Proclamation open the door for black soldiers?
- 3) Did the Emancipation Proclamation free all slaves within the United States?
- 4) What did Lincoln write that this act was warranted by?
- 5) What United States groups does he say will recognize and help to maintain the freedom of slaves?
- 6) Do you believe that Lincoln possessed the power to free the slaves in the seceded states? Why or why not?
- 7) Who does Lincoln ask the favor of in this document?
- 8) When was the Proclamation issued?
- 9) What position, other than President, does Lincoln claim that gives him the power to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
- 10) Which areas of the country are listed as excluded from the action of the Emancipation?
- 11) What is your opinion of how this document affected the countries of Europe's attitude toward the Civil War?
- 12) What other government official's name appears on the document?
- 13) What does Lincoln tell the people who are to be freed to abstain or stay away from?
- 14) Do you believe that the wording of the document is different due to the time period in which it was written and why or why not?
- 15) What does the document state about the use of black soldiers? In other words, what duties will black soldiers be assigned once joining the United States military?