

JUNETEENTH

QUICK FACTS



Juneteenth is June 19th.

IT IS THE LONGEST-RUNNING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOLIDAY. JUNETEENTH IS ALSO KNOWN AS EMANCIPATION DAY, BLACK INDEPENDENCE DAY, FREEDOM DAY, JUBILEE DAY, & LIBERATION DAY. MANY HAVE ADOPTED THE AFRICAN COLORS & PAN-AFRICAN FLAG.

Though initially only celebrated in Texas,

49 U.S. STATES & THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACKNOWLEDGE JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY. IT BECAME A FEDERAL HOLIDAY IN 2021. LESS THAN 10 STATES RECOGNIZE IT AS A PAID HOLIDAY.



Official Juneteenth Flag

THE FLAG WAS INITIALLY DESIGNED BY BEN HAITH, BUT LATER REFINED BY LISA JEANNE GRAF. THE RED, WHITE, & BLUE REPRESENTS & HONORS THE FACT THAT THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE WERE AMERICANS. THE STAR REPRESENTS TEXAS, THE FINAL STATE TO FREE ITS SLAVES. THE OUTER STAR SYMBOLIZES NEW FREEDOM AND NEW PEOPLE.

Emancipation Park

IN THE 1870S, A GROUP OF FORMER SLAVES, SPEARHEADED BY REV. JACK YATES, RAISED AROUND \$1000 THROUGH LOCAL CHURCHES TO PURCHASE TEN ACRES OF LAND AND CREATE EMANCIPATION PARK TO HOST FUTURE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS IN MODERN-DAY HOUSTON. CELEBRATIONS WERE PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC LAND.



Juneteenth Becomes Official Texas Holiday



ON JANUARY 1, 1980, A BILL BY TEXAS STATE REP. AL EDWARDS WAS PASSED MAKING JUNETEENTH AN OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAY. TEXAS WAS THE FIRST STATE TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE AN EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION.

June, 19 1865

GENERAL GRANGER & HIS TROOPS TRAVELED TO GALVESTON, TEXAS TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL SLAVES ARE FREE, OVER TWO YEARS AFTER THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION THAT OFFICIALLY FREED ALL SLAVES. THE 13 SECEDED SOUTHERN STATES DID NOT ADHERE TO THE PROCLAMATION.



Historical Celebrations

JUNETEENTH WAS INITIALLY CELEBRATED WITH SINGING RITUALS & PRAYER MEETINGS. ATTENDEES WORE NEW CLOTHING AS AN EXPRESSION OF FREEDOM, DECORATED CARRIAGES, INCLUDED STORYTELLING, & FEASTING.



MODERN-DAY CELEBRATIONS INCLUDE PARADES, COOKOUTS, LECTURES, REUNIONS, & REENACTMENTS. RED FOODS ARE A STAPLE BECAUSE THEY ARE SAID TO REPRESENT THE BLOODSHED BY ANCESTORS. THOSE FOODS INCLUDE A VARIATION OF RED DRINKS, RED MEAT, DESSERTS, RED FRUITS & VEGETABLES.

