

What is Juneteenth?

June 19, 1865. Two months after the Confederate Army surrendered to end the Civil War, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and slaves were now free. This was two and a half years after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation but there had not been enough federal troops in Texas to enforce it then.

The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and became a time for praying and gathering family members together. In 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas and its observance has grown across the country. Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom and achievement, promotes and cultivates knowledge and appreciation of African-American history and culture.

As we struggle to put an end to racism, Juneteenth is an opportunity for reflection, a time to acknowledge the trauma that has resulted from the enslavement of 4 million people for more than 250 years.

Ten Things White People Can Do to Celebrate Juneteenth!

- ✓ Read books, plays and poetry written by Black authors, playwrights and poets.
- ✓ Search out Black history and recognize its importance.
- ✓ Seek out and support Black-owned businesses.
- ✓ Listen to the music of Black artists.
- ✓ Watch TV shows, plays and movies written by, directed by and acted in by Black artists.
- ✓ Visit an exhibit or museum dedicated to Black culture.
- ✓ Donate to organizations that are committed to fighting for the Black community.
- ✓ Listen and learn from difficult conversations about racism and police violence.
- ✓ Hold people accountable: speak up and speak out against injustice.
- ✓ Deeply consider the wound of racism on the hearts of every Black American.

Take Action Today to End Racism in America!!