

THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF)


“[WHEN ASKED HOW SHE LEARNED ABOUT THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WHICH SHE USED TO SUE FOR HER FREEDOM:] BY KEEPIN' STILL AND MINDIN' THINGS.”

“Any time, any time while I was a slave, if one minute's freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it—just to stand one minute on god's airth a free woman—I would.” – Elizabeth Freeman

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Juneteenth 101 – Teacher's Guide Ms. Juneteenth Edition



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Cover Story – Elizabeth Freeman (MUM BETT) (1742-1829)

Elizabeth Freeman was born into slavery in Claverack, New York in 1742. During the 1770s, she lived in the household of Colonel John Ashley of Sheffield, a prominent citizen who at that time also served as a judge of the Berkshire Court of Common Pleas. Colonel Ashley purchased Freeman from a Mr. Hogeboom when she was six months of age. Upon suffering physical abuse from Ashley’s wife, Freeman escaped her home and refused to return. She found a sympathetic ear with attorney Theodore Sedgwick, the father of the writer Catherine Sedgwick. Apparently, as she served dinner to her masters, she had heard them speaking of freedom—in this case freedom from England—and she applied the concepts of equality and freedom for all to herself.

In 1781 Freeman, with the assistance of Sedgwick, initiated the case Brom and Bett v. Ashley that set a precedent for the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. According to the Massachusetts Judicial Review, the 1781 Berkshire county case of Brom and Bett v. Ashley, often referred to as the Mum Bett or Elizabeth Freeman case, was unique because it occurred less than one year after the adoption of the Massachusetts Constitution and because, in contrast to prior freedom suits, there was no claim that John Ashley, the slave owner, had violated a specific law. This case was a direct challenge to the very existence of slavery in Massachusetts.

Once free, Freeman stayed with the Sedgwick family as a servant in gratitude to Theodore Sedgwick. Sedgwick in arguing a later case used the example of Freeman when he said in defense of the abolition of slavery, “If there could be a practical refutation of the imagined superiority of our race to hers, the life and character of this woman would afford that refutation.” Freeman died on December 28, 1829 at 85 years of age.



LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What is Juneteenth?
2. Why should we celebrate?
3. How did Lincoln become the Republican candidate for President?

LESSON 1: What is Juneteenth and Why is it Important?

In American Standard English “Juneteenth” is a contraction of June and fourteenth or nineteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known commemoration of the ending of slavery in the nation. Juneteenth is an annual observance to celebrate the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. Texas was one of the last states in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not announced in the last few states practicing enslavement until General Gordon Granger and members of the United States Colored Troops came to Galveston, Texas and issued General Order #3, on the "19th of June," almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth – also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day. It will soon be an international holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States ... and beyond!

1858 - Lincoln becomes the Republican Presidential Candidate

On June 16, 1858, Abraham Lincoln accepted the Republican nomination for President of the United States. Lincoln becomes the Republican presidential candidate, benefiting from a Democratic party split on the issue of slavery. More than 1,000 delegates met in the Springfield, Illinois, statehouse for the Republican State Convention. At 5:00 p.m. they chose Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for the U.S. Senate, running against Democrat Stephen A. Douglas. At 8:00 p.m. Lincoln delivered this address to his Republican colleagues in the Hall of Representatives. The title reflects part of the speech's introduction, "**A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand**," a concept familiar to Lincoln's audience as a statement by Jesus recorded in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm>



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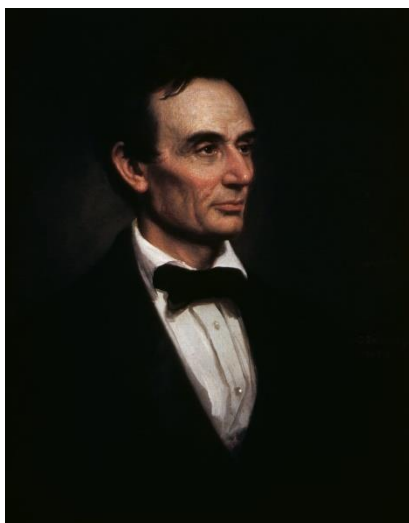





Figure 1 - President Abraham Lincoln (1808 - 1865, painting from 1860)

The 1858 Midterm Election

November 2, 1858 “There is always a lull after a tempest, and so the political world has subsided into an unwonted calm since the election,” commented a reporter for The New York Times. “The Republicans are naturally . . . exultant over their sweeping victories.” Such a commentary might apply to any number of elections, but this reporter described the outcome of a particularly historic election—the midterm election of 1858. The Republican success that year was especially remarkable because the Republican Party was only four years old.

United States Senate election in Illinois, 1858				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
 Democratic	Stephen A. Douglas (inc.)	54	54.00	
 Republican	Abraham Lincoln	46	46.00	
Majority		8	8.00	
 Democratic hold				

Note: At this time, U.S. Senators were elected by the state legislatures, not by vote of the people

After the 1858 midterm election, Stephen Douglas kept his Senate seat, but Abraham Lincoln won national acclaim. Republicans took control of the House and swept northern gubernatorial races, but Democrats maintained a majority in the Senate. Prior to this election, only a handful of the Senate’s 66 members identified themselves as Republican; now that number grew to 26 and included such important converts as William



Seward, Charles Sumner, and Benjamin Wade. This set the stage for 1860, when Republicans took control of the Senate, the House, and the presidency.

1860 – Abraham Lincoln Elected President

Republican contender Abraham Lincoln is elected US president with only 39% of the popular vote and no electoral votes in eleven southern states. The election of 1860 was one of the most pivotal presidential elections in American history. The main issue of the election was slavery and states' rights. Lincoln emerged victoriously and became the 16th President of the United States. The appeal to states' rights was the most compelling symbols of the American Civil War, but confusion abounds as to the historical and present meaning of this federalist principle. The concept of states' rights had been an old idea by 1860. The original thirteen colonies in America in the 1700s, separated from the mother country in Europe by a vast ocean, were used to making many of their own decisions and ignoring quite a few of the rules imposed on them from abroad. During the American Revolution, the founding fathers were forced to compromise with the states to ensure ratification of the Constitution and the establishment of a united country. In fact, the original Constitution banned slavery, but Virginia would not accept it; and Massachusetts would not ratify the document without a Bill of Rights. Hence, the Massachusetts Compromise was made, and Massachusetts voted to ratify the Constitution on February 6, 1788. Five states subsequently voted for ratification, four of which followed the Massachusetts model of recommending amendments along with their ratification.



The Start of the Civil War

When anti-slavery Republican Abraham Lincoln won the presidential election in 1860, Southerners were sure that the North meant to take away their right to govern themselves, abolish slavery, and destroy the Southern economy. Having exhausted their legal and political options, they felt that the only way to protect themselves from this Northern assault was to no longer be a part of the United States of America. To protect the institution of slavery eleven southern slave-holding states formed an alliance, called the Confederacy, and seceded from the United States in 1861. Although the Southern states seceded separately, without intending to form a new nation, they soon banded together in a loose coalition. Northerners, however, led by Abraham Lincoln, viewed secession as an illegal act. The Confederate States of America was not a new country, they felt, but a group of treasonous rebels.

Lesson 2: The Year 1861

LESSON AIMS

1. Explain the main issue President Lincoln was facing in the election.
2. Describe what role Frederick Douglass played.
3. Tell why the Confederacy was formed.
4. List what states formed the Confederacy.
5. Define what was the basis of the Confederate Constitution.
6. Describe what did Frederick Douglass believed would help the North.
7. How did President Lincoln really feel about the institution of slavery?



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1861 - The War Between the States

South Carolina Becomes the First Southern State to Secede from the Union in Response to Lincoln's Election. "The War Between the States," began April 1861, when South Carolinians (members of the Confederate States of America) launched an attack on Fort Sumter in the Charleston harbor. Seven southern states, meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, agree to form the Confederate States of America. The Confederacy was initially formed by seven secessionist slave-holding States South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas—in the Lower South region of the United States, whose economy was heavily dependent upon agriculture, particularly cotton, and a plantation system that relied upon the free labor of African American slaves. The seven members of the newly formed Confederacy elect Jefferson Davis as their provisional president until elections could be held. Richmond, the state capital of Virginia, becomes the capital of the Southern Confederacy.

Shots are fired against the Federal military garrison in Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, launching the American Civil War. After the Civil War began, four other states-Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina joined the Confederacy to maintain their rights to hold slave's captive as free labor. Residents of the western counties of Virginia did not wish to secede along with the rest of the state. This section of Virginia was admitted into the Union as the state of West Virginia on June 20, 1863. Despite their acceptance of slavery, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri did not join the Confederacy. Although divided in their loyalties, a combination of political maneuvering and Union military pressure kept these states from seceding. Hence the bloodiest war in America's history ensued.

"We have dissolved the late Union chiefly because of the negro quarrel ... We have called our negroes 'slaves', and we have recognized and protected them as persons and our rights to them as property." Stated Robert Hardy Smith, in an Address to the Citizens of Alabama on the Constitution and Laws of the Confederate States of America in 1861. The Constitution of the Confederate States was the supreme law of the Confederate States of America. It was adopted on March 11, 1861, and was in effect from February 22, 1862, to the conclusion of the American Civil War (May 1865).

As the spring and summer of 1861 wore on, hundreds of thousands of white men, most of them ill-trained and unprepared for war, poured into the armed forces of both sides. Anticipating a day when their services would be accepted, African American men in the North formed military training companies, while women on both sides labored on the home front after their men left for war. Most Americans assumed the war would be over by Christmas, but the bloody battle at Manassas, Virginia, and the Union naval blockade of the Confederate coastline suggested otherwise. To blockade the coast of the Confederacy effectively, the federal navy had to be improved. By July, the effort at improvement had made a difference and an effective blockade had begun. The South responded by building small, fast ships that could outmaneuver Union vessels. As the conflict extended into 1862, the North and South readied their armies for a longer fight.

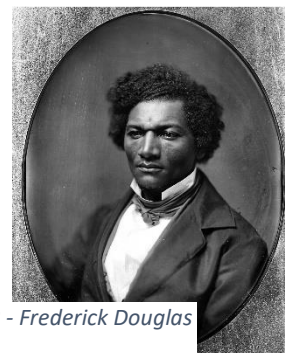


Figure 2 - Frederick Douglass



“Not Just A White Man’s War”

From the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Douglass pleaded to Abraham Lincoln and others to give Black men a chance to fight. “Is he not a man?” Douglass wrote in his newspaper Douglass’ Monthly. “Can he not wield a sword, fire a gun, march and countermarch, and obey others like any other?” Yet for most white men on the Union side, this was not a matter for men of color. It was a white man’s war. Early in the Civil War, Douglass clashed with President Abraham Lincoln for not allowing formerly enslaved people to enlist. Lincoln had been reluctant to arm Black men and allow them to serve in the Union military forces—in part due to racism and for fear that outraged border states would join the secession, ensuring the Union’s loss. But as Union defeats mounted and manpower dwindled, Black men formed units of their own in the South in 1862. Frederick Douglass argued that the enlistment of black soldiers would help the North win the war and would be a huge step in the fight for equal rights: “Once [you] let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket,” Douglass said, “and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.”

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war>

It would mostly be a white man’s war until Lincoln on January 1, 1863 signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all enslaved people in the states that had seceded from the Union. The proclamation included a provision calling for the recruitment of African American men into the Union armed forces. Empowered now to recruit with government authority, Douglass traveled more than 2,000 miles from Boston to Chicago, extolling the virtues of service to the Union cause to Black men. He would end many of his recruiting speeches by leading the audience in “John Brown’s Body,” a popular song of the Union Army, which later became “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

Ultimately, twenty-six African American soldiers won the Congressional Medal of Honor for their brave service in the fight for their freedom during the Civil War. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African-American_Medal_of_Honor_recipients The first battle of the American Civil War, fought near Manassas and the Bull Run Creek, is a clear Confederate victory.

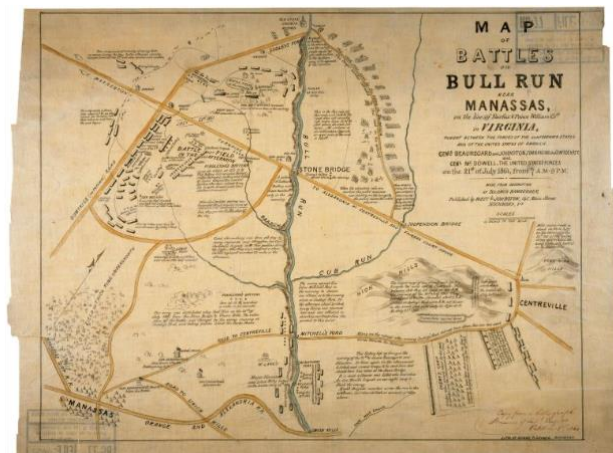


Figure 3 - Map of the Battles of Bull Run Near Manassas

Known in the north as the Battle of Bull Run and in the South as the Battle of Manassas, this battle, fought on July 21, 1861 in Virginia was the first major battle of the Civil War. It was a Confederate victory. (A year later there was a second battle fought in the area known as the Second Battle of Bull Run or Second Manassas



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depending on the side describing it. The second Battle of Bull Run was fought in August 28-30, 1862 and was also a defeat for Union forces though it was not as total as the first one.)

Lesson 3: The Year 1862

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What was the function of Chapter CXI and what loophole did it present?
2. What date was the Emancipation Proclamation issued?
3. What was Midnight Watch?
4. Why were the Black soldiers needed for the War?
5. Who was Robert Smalls and what role did he play in the Civil War?
6. When and where were the first U.S. Colored Combat Troops formed?
7. Where did the War Department begin recruiting U.S. Colored Combat Troops?
8. Why was General McClellan removed from command?

Lincoln Issues a War Order

On January 27, President Abraham Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, ordering all land and sea forces to advance on February 22, 1862. This bold move sent a message to his commanders that the president was tired of excuses and delays in seizing the offensive against Confederate forces.

The unusual order was the product of several factors. Lincoln had a new secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, who replaced the corrupt Simon Cameron. The president had also been brushing up on his readings about military strategy. Lincoln felt that if enough force were brought to bear on the Confederates simultaneously, they would break. This was a simple plan that ignored a host of other factors, but Lincoln felt that if the Confederates "...weakened one to strengthen another," the Union could step in and "seize and hold the one weakened." The primary reason for the order, however, was General George McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac in the East. McClellan had a deep contempt for the president that had become increasingly apparent since Lincoln appointed him in July 1861. McClellan had shown great reluctance to reveal his plans to the president and exhibited no signs of moving his army soon.

Lincoln wanted to convey a sense of urgency to all the military leaders, and it worked in the West. Union armies in Tennessee began to move, and General Ulysses S. Grant captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, respectively. McClellan, however, did not respond. Lincoln's order called for strict accountability for each commander who did not follow the order, but the president had to handle McClellan carefully. Because the general had the backing of many Democrats and had whipped the Army of the



Potomac into fine fighting shape over the winter, Lincoln had to give McClellan a chance to command in the field. (Editors, 2009)

On March 8, President Lincoln—impatient with General McClellan's inactivity—issued an order reorganizing the Army of Virginia and relieving McClellan of supreme command. McClellan was given command of the Army of the Potomac and ordered to attack Richmond. This marked the beginning of the Peninsular Campaign.

March 9, The USS Monitor (Union ship) and the USS Merrimack fight all morning off the Virginia coast, in history's first clash between ironclad ships. In one of the most famous naval battles in history the Union Monitor defeated the Confederate Virginia. It was the first battle between two steel navy ships and marked the end of the wood-based navy. The battle was part of a Confederate effort to break the Union blockade of Southern ports, including Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, that had been imposed at the start of the war.



Figure 4 – General Ulysses S. Grant

April 7, The Army of the Tennessee under General Ulysses S. Grant, repulses the Confederate advance of the day earlier at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, one of the largest battles of the western theatre in the U.S. Civil War. The two-day engagement at Shiloh is the first Civil War battle to bring massive casualties, with more than 23,000 dead, wounded or missing. This battle, along with the unconditional surrender of Fort Donelson to General Grant on February 16, signaled the first major successes of the Union army in the west.

April 16, The District of Columbia Emancipation Act President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia. Passage of this law came 8 1/2 months before President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. The act concluded a decade of agitation aimed at ending what antislavery advocates called "the national shame" of slavery in the nation's capital. It provided for immediate emancipation, compensation to former owners who were loyal to the Union of up to \$300 for each freed slave, voluntary colonization of former slaves to locations outside the United States, and payments of up to \$100 for each person choosing emigration. Over the next 9 months, the Board of Commissioners appointed to administer the act approved 930 petitions, completely or in part, from former owners for the freedom of 2,989 former slaves. Although its combination of emancipation, compensation to owners, and colonization did not serve as a model for the future, the District of Columbia Emancipation Act was an early signal of slavery's death. In the District itself, African Americans greeted emancipation with great jubilation. For many years afterward, they celebrated Emancipation Day on April 16 with parades and festivals.



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May 13, 1862



Figure 5 - - Robert Smalls, a pilot who seized the CSS Planter from Charleston, South Carolina and delivered her to the United States Navy.

Robert Smalls' daring escape from slavery into the hands of the Union Navy put him on a path to become the public face—and prominent recruiter—of Black sailors for the Union. He himself would parlay that into a successful political career.

Raised in slavery in South Carolina, the son of an unknown white man, Smalls gained experience as a rigger and sailor after his owners moved from Beaufort to the larger port city of Charleston, where he married Hannah Jones, an enslaved hotel maid.

When his attempts to buy his wife and family out of slavery failed, he plotted an escape. As the Civil War broke out, he became a deckhand on the Confederate supply ship the Planter and learned how to navigate between ports. Before dawn on May 13, 1862, as white officers and the crew slept, he slipped the Planter out of Charleston Harbor with eight men, five women and three children on board, chugging quietly from slavery toward freedom.

Ready to blow up the ship if caught, Smalls gave the right signals to pass five checkpoints (including Fort Sumter) and, once in open waters, raised a white bed sheet in surrender to the Union Navy blockade. He handed over the craft's guns and ammunition, as well as documents detailing Confederate shipping routes, departure schedules and mine locations.

The daring escape helped encourage President Lincoln to authorize free Blacks to serve in the military. Congress awarded \$1,500 to Smalls, who went on a speaking tour, recruiting Black men to serve. He also conducted 17 missions on the Planter and the ironclad USS Keokuk in and around Charleston.

Once commissioned as a brigadier general in the South Carolina militia, he ran a variety of businesses before launching into politics—as a member of both South Carolina's House of Representatives and its state Senate. His term in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1874 to 1879 was marred when he was convicted of taking a \$5,000 bribe while in the state Senate. Sentenced to three years in prison, he was pardoned before serving any time. (Roman, 2021)



June 19, 1862

CHAPTER CXI—An Act to secure Freedom to all Persons within the Territories of the United States. “Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that from and after the passage of this act there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the Territories of the United States now existing, or which may at any time hereafter be formed or acquired by the United States, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.” - **SIGNED and APPROVED, by President Abraham Lincoln** <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/37th-congress/session-2/c37s2ch111.pdf> Early in the war, President Lincoln approached the issue of slavery cautiously. While he disapproved of slavery personally, he did not believe that he had the authority to abolish it. Furthermore, he feared that making the abolition of slavery an objective of the war would cause the border slave states to join the Confederacy. His one objective in 1861 and 1862 was to restore the Union.

July 4 - The second paragraph of the United States Declaration of Independence starts as follows: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Lincoln reminded the embattled nation, "All men created equal" (but this still did not include African Americans). Lincoln believed that American democracy meant equal rights and equality of opportunity. But he drew a line between basic natural rights such as freedom from slavery and political and civil rights like voting. He believed it was up to the states to decide who should exercise these rights. Before the Civil War, both Northern and Southern states commonly barred women and free black persons from voting, serving on juries, and enjoying other such rights.

Lincoln strongly believed slavery was "a great evil." He did not, however, join with the small minority of Northern abolitionists who wanted to outlaw slavery immediately. Lincoln preferred to emancipate the slaves gradually by compensating their owners with federal funds.

July 12 - Border States reject the Emancipation Proclamation to free enslaved people. After two grueling years of war, President Lincoln began to reconsider black soldiers, as equals and human enough to die for their freedom. Besides, the Union Army desperately needed soldiers. White volunteers were dwindling, and African Americans were more eager to fight than ever.

Supplemental Act of July 12, 1862 Congress passed a supplemental bill to the original DC Emancipation Act which covered another type of claim, allowing slaves whose masters had not filed for compensation to do so. An important factor in deciding claims under this Act was that the testimony of both blacks and whites was accepted. Now, if an owner challenged a slave who petitioned for freedom, the testimony from both was given equal weight, a sharp departure from the previous legal practice in which slaves or freed blacks could not testify against whites.

July 17 - Lincoln signed the Congress 2ND Confiscation Act of 1862 ... any Confederate official, military or civilian, who did not surrender within 60 days (about 2 months) of the act's passage would have their slaves freed in criminal proceedings: and thereby the first step towards the enlistment of African Americans in the Union Army. Confiscation Acts, (1861–64), in U.S. history, series of laws passed by the federal government during the American Civil War that were designed to liberate slaves in the seceded states. The first Confiscation Act, passed on Aug. 6, 1861, authorized Union seizure of rebel property, and it stated that all slaves who fought



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with or worked for the Confederate military services were freed of further obligations to their masters. This act was virtually an emancipation proclamation. It said that slaves of civilian and military Confederate officials "shall be forever free," but it was enforceable only in areas of the South occupied by the Union Army. Lincoln was again concerned about the effect of an antislavery measure on the border states and again urged these states to begin gradual compensated emancipation.

Passed alongside the Second Confiscation Act on July 17, 1862, the **Militia Act of 1862** amended the Militia Act of 1795, making it legal for African American men to enlist in the United States army "for the purpose of constructing intrenchments, or performing camp service or any other labor, or any military or naval service for which they may be found competent." The law also offered emancipation to any slaves willing and able to serve as well as their families, with the stipulation that their owner be disloyal to the Union.

<https://iowaculture.gov/history/education/educator-resources/primary-source-sets/african-americans-and-civil-war/militia-act>

August 4 - 1st United States Colored Combat Troop (USCT)—Kansas Regiment

Kansas was the first Northern state to recruit, train, and send black soldiers into combat during the Civil War. Fort Scott served as the home base for both the 1st and 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry, with both regiments being mustered into federal service on Fort Scott's former parade ground. The Emancipation Proclamation officially authorized the recruitment of African American soldiers for federal service (although the 1st Kansas Colored had earlier been recruited as a state unit in August 1862). This meant it was now legal for free blacks and former slaves to fight back against the institution of slavery and seek to abolish it through armed resistance. As virtually every Southern slave code prohibited blacks from carrying guns, the proclamation had a profound psychological impact across the region.





*Figure 6 - Captain William Mathews—a free black, a businessman and station master on the Underground Railroad – recruited former slaves into the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Fort Scott. He lost his rank when the unit was federalized but later served as an artillery officer.
Kansas State Historical Society*

August 25 - US War Department began recruiting Colored Combat Troop in Gullah Geechee territory on the Sea Islands. The First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry was the first officially recognized black unit of the Union Army during the Civil War. It was quietly authorized by President Abraham Lincoln and organized in August of 1862. The regiment reached its full complement of 1,000 men and was mustered in during November of that year. The First South Carolina Volunteers were deployed almost two months before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863 (and before the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment was organized). On January 1, they were issued regimental colors and “officially” accepted into the Union Army. In February 1864 they became officially the 33rd United States Colored Troops Regiment.

This was not the first attempt at a South Carolinian black regiment; Major General David Hunter, who took command of the Union Troops in the Department of the South in March of 1862, had raised a regiment of 500 black men, but without the necessary political support, he was forced to disband it in August. At the same time, Robert Smalls, an escaped slave, and a Union War hero, traveled to Washington, D.C. to request permission for African American men to serve in the Union Army. Five days later, on August 25, 1862, and only two weeks after Hunter’s regiment was disbanded, Lincoln authorized the creation of a South Carolinian black regiment.

Early recruits were largely Gullah men from the South Carolinian and Georgian Sea Islands including 100 holdovers from Hunter’s regiment who formed the Volunteers’ A Company. Like other black regiments, however, all the First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry’s officers were white, and its commander was Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a noted abolitionist. Harriet Tubman, who had been a nurse for Hunter’s regiment and had stayed on, and Susie Baker King Taylor, then a 14-year-old runaway slave, who also became a nurse.

Lesson 4: The Year 1863 Part I

LESSON AIMS

Lesson 4: The Year 1863 Part I

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What was the responsibility of the military and naval authorities?
2. What did the enslaved people do?
3. What did the enslaved people of New Orleans do?
4. The colored infantry was formed in what two states prior to the Emancipation Proclamation.
5. Who comprised the 54th Massachusetts Infantry?
6. The Treaty with England provided what help for the North?
7. What was the purpose of the new Freedmen’s Bureau?
8. Who was the first black officer killed in combat?
9. What was the battle site?



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January 1, 1863 church bells rings...FREEDOM - A NEW ERA has begun!

Lincoln used the war powers of the presidency to issue the Emancipation Proclamation re-ordering the freedom of all enslaved people in the areas "in rebellion" (the Confederacy) declaring ... ""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."

The mandate did not exempt border states and those areas of slave states not in rebellion and therefore beyond the reach of the constitutional war power to emancipate its enslaved people. However, as soon as the Union Army arrived, it did liberate the enslaved in that area. On the first day, it affected tens of thousands of enslaved people.

Some Black people took this as their cue to begin forming infantry units of their own.

African Americans from New Orleans formed three National Guard units: the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Louisiana Native Guard. These became the 73rd, 74th, and the 75th United States Colored Infantry.

The First Kansas Colored Infantry—79th United States Colored Infantry (fought in the October 1862 skirmish at Island Mound, Missouri).

The First South Carolina Infantry—33rd United States Colored Infantry (went on its first expedition in November 1862).

These unofficial regiments were officially mustered into service in January 1863.

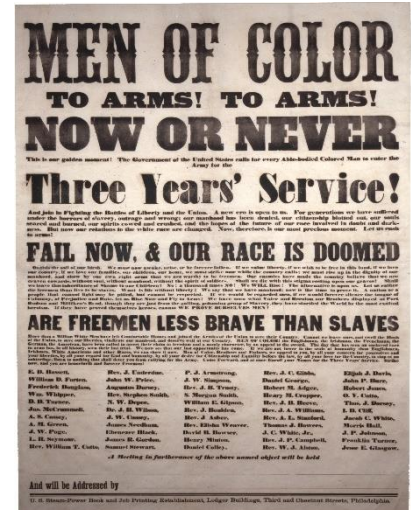
February

February, the abolitionist Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts issued the Civil War's first official call for black soldiers. More than 1,000 men responded from as far away as Canada and the Caribbean. Frederick Douglass' son Charles Douglass was the first to enlist in the United States Colored Troops, USCT.



After the Emancipation Proclamation was enacted on January 1, 1863, black leaders including Frederick Douglass swiftly moved to recruit African Americans as soldiers. "A war undertaken and brazenly carried on for the perpetual enslavement of colored men," Douglass wrote in Frederick Douglass' Monthly, "calls logically and loudly for colored men to help suppress it." This broadside, endorsed by Douglass (third name in the first column) and other African American leaders, urges free African Americans to enlist, declaring "If we value liberty, if we wish to be free in this land. . . . If we would be regarded men, if we would forever silence the tongue of Calumny, of Prejudice and Hate, let us Rise Now and Fly to Arms."

They formed the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the first black regiment to be raised in the North. Two of his Frederick Douglass's sons, Charles, and Lewis were among the first to enlist in the famed 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the second African American battalion that saw extensive service in the war, commanded by white officers. A third son, Frederick Jr., recruited for the regiment like his father.



February 3 - New state West Virginia allows emancipation of its enslaved population! - The West Virginia Constitution of 1863 left in lifetime slavery all of the enslaved people in western Virginia who were then older than twenty-five. But when the West Virginia legislature ratified the Thirteenth Amendment on February 3, 1865, it also passed a bill immediately abolishing slavery in the state.

March

March 16 - New Freedmen's Bureau - The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Record Group 105), also known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of Congress on March 3, 1865. The Bureau was responsible for the supervision and management of all matters relating to the refugees and freedmen and lands abandoned or seized during the Civil War, duties previously shared by military commanders and US Treasury Department officials. In May 1865, President Andrew Johnson appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard as Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau. Howard's headquarters were in Washington, DC, but assistant commissioners, sub-assistant commissioners, and agents conducted the Bureau's daily operations in the former Confederate states, the border states, and the District of Columbia.

As Congress extended the life of the Bureau, it added other duties, such as assisting Black soldiers and sailors in obtaining back pay, bounty payments, and pensions.

Because the Bureau's records contain a wide range of data about the African American experience during slavery and Reconstruction, they are an invaluable source for historians, social scientists, and genealogists. -

<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau>

April

Union forces in the east begin a new campaign in Virginia to flank Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg. In the west, a Union army has begun a campaign to surround and take Vicksburg, Mississippi, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.



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May

60-day Battle of Port Hudson, USCT - Port Hudson was the site of the longest siege in American history, lasting 48 days, when 7,500 Confederates resisted some 40,000 Union soldiers for almost two months during 1863.

73rd USCT—Andre Cailloux, 1825 – May 27, 1863, was one of the first African American officers in the Union Army to be killed in combat during the Civil War. He died heroically during the Siege of Port Hudson, LA.

Lesson 5: The Year 1863 Part II

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What issue did the War Department face?
2. Describe the Battle of Milliken's Bend, Louisiana.
3. What groups participated in this fight?
4. Where did Harriet Tubman free 700 enslaved people?
5. What Generals led the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.?
6. Where were the Confederates defeated on July 4th?
7. What fortification did the Union Troops capture?
8. Describe the Battle of Honey Springs.
9. Where is Fort Wagner?
10. What Black Troops fought this battle?
11. Who was the P.O.W. that argued for equal pay for black troops?

June

June 2 - Harriet Tubman, under the command of Union Colonel James Montgomery, became the first woman to lead a major military operation in the United States when she and 150 African American Union soldiers rescued more than 700 slaves in the Combahee Ferry Raid during the Civil War.

June 4 - War Department pays USCT less money and no bounties. A white enlisted man received \$13 a month, an amount equivalent to about \$240 in 2013, and his pay included a clothing allowance of \$3, to be spent at the soldier's discretion. A black enlistee was paid \$10 but received only \$7; the remaining \$3 was withheld as a clothing allowance.

June 7 – “African Brigade” 9th LA USCT, 5th Colored heavy artillery fought off Rebel attack at Milliken's Bend. Louisiana's newly recruited slaves fought hand-to-hand and got high praise from Generals Grant, Stanton, Lincoln, et al!

July

July 1863 was an extraordinarily bloody and decisive month on the 4th, the Confederates suffered defeat at Helena, Ark., and, more important, surrendered the essential Mississippi River stronghold of Vicksburg. The Civil War devastated the Confederate states. The presence of vast armies throughout the countryside meant that livestock, crops, and other staples were consumed very quickly. To gather fresh supplies and relieve the



pressure on the Confederate garrison at Vicksburg, Mississippi, Confederate General Robert E. Lee launched a daring invasion of the North in the summer of 1863. He was defeated by Union General George G. Meade in a three-day battle near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania that left nearly 51,000 men killed, wounded, or missing in action. While Lee's men were able to gather the vital supplies, they did little to draw Union forces away from Vicksburg, which fell to Federal troops on July 4, 1863. Many historians mark the twin Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, Mississippi, as the “turning point” in the Civil War. In November of 1863, President Lincoln traveled to the small Pennsylvania town and delivered the Gettysburg Address, which expressed firm commitment to preserving the Union and became one of the most iconic speeches in American history.

Black and Native American soldiers were outnumbered by whites in an overlooked July 1863 clash in what is now Rentiesville, Oklahoma The Battle of Honey Springs, the climatic engagement of the Civil War in Indian Territory, was fought on July 17, 1863, and had been in the making since the beginning of the war. Then, as part of an overall plan for conquering the Confederacy, Federal forces invaded Indian Territory. The Engagement at Honey Springs was the largest of more than 107 documented hostile encounters in Indian Territory between the First Division Army of the Frontier, commanded by Major General James G. Blunt, and the Confederate Indian Brigade led by Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper. Cherokee and Creek regiments fought on both sides. There were approximately 9,000 men involved including American Indians, veteran Texas regiments, and the First Kansas Colored Volunteers, which was the first African American regiment in the Union army.

The Honey Springs Battlefield is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Visit <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HO025> to find out more about the Battle of Honey Springs.

July 18 - the 54th Massachusetts stormed Fort Wagner, which guarded the Port of Charleston, SC. Tired, hungry, and proud, the black soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry stood in the light of the setting sun and awaited the call to battle on the evening of July 18, 1863. The air was filled with the rumble of big guns, and the very ground on Morris Island, South Carolina, trembled beneath their feet. The regiment's baptism of fire had come only two days before, but the memories of that sharp skirmish had already begun to fade in the shadow of the awesome task that now lay before them. It was the first time in the Civil War that African American troops led an infantry attack. Unfortunately, the 600 men of the 54th were outgunned and outnumbered-were killed. This is the storyline for the movie “Glory.”

July 30 - Lincoln legislative order forbids mistreatment of African American Prisoners of War (POWs) **Retaliation to Defend Black Union POWs** - The advent of black Union soldiers in combat created an interesting wrinkle on the road to emancipation in the American Civil War. One which pitted the desire of African Americans for equality as well as freedom, against white Confederates who tried to paint black soldiers as savages in uniform foisted on them by their white Union enemy who in a desperate attempt to stave off total defeat was prepared to throw out the rules of civilized warfare and foment what amounted to servile insurrection against the South. In the middle, of course, was the Lincoln administration, which while it had no enthusiasm in Summer 1863 for black equality, recognized that it had some duty toward the African Americans soldiers unfortunate enough to fall into rebel hands. “It is the duty of every government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color, or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit no distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or enslave any captured person on account of his



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color, and for no offense against the laws of war, is a relapse into barbarism and a crime against the civilization of the age.

The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or enslave anyone because of his color the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possession.

It is therefore ordered, that for every soldier of the United States killed in violation of the laws of war a rebel soldier shall be executed, and for everyone enslaved by the enemy or sold into slavery a rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works and continued at such labor until the other shall be released and receive the treatment due to a prisoner of war.” - **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/203220>

It was an extraordinary executive order. While Lincoln never really implemented the order, it helped sow seeds of doubt among Confederate troops that they were free to do what they wished with any black Union soldiers that fell into their hands. And while it did not stop Fort Pillow and other massacres, it no doubt prevented some black prisoners from being wantonly killed by making Confederates think twice because Lincoln had formally linked the safety of rebel prisoners of war to the way they treated African Americans in federal uniform. Extending equality in its protection to black POWs also made it harder for the federal government to discriminate against black men in uniform in other ways, such as their rate of pay. Indeed, if Lincoln's executive order of July 30, 1863, succeeded clearly in any way, it was in sending a meaningful political signal to African Americans that his government valued their military service and considered black troops more than simply cannon fodder, to be used and discarded. With that sort of statement, it also became politically harder for the Lincoln administration, even if it had ever wanted to, to back off from the Emancipation Proclamation and freedom for the slaves more generally. With Lincoln's executive order of retaliation, he had in essence made protecting black Union POWs a matter of honor. (Shaffer, 2013)

August

August 10, Frederick Douglass (Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey) After escaping from slavery in Maryland he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York. He was a living counterexample to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Even Northerners found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been enslaved. Douglass meets with Lincoln to recruit and gather support for the unequal pay and treatment of Black soldiers. The U.S. Army paid black soldiers \$10 a week (minus a clothing allowance, in some cases), while white soldiers got \$3 more (plus a clothing allowance, in some cases). Congress passed a bill authorizing equal pay for black and white soldiers in 1864.

October

79th USCT fights in Kansas, MO.



November

November 19, Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address. The Gettysburg Address, a speech given by President Lincoln on November 19 1863 when visiting the dedication of a Cemetery in Pennsylvania in the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg. It is considered to be one of the most famous and important speeches ever given in American history.

(Note: The opening of the speech starts with, "Four score and seven years ago"; a score is 20 years so the amount of time Lincoln is referring to is 87 years from when he is speaking which would be the year 1776.)

December

December 8, Lincoln prepares Notes on Reconstruction; end of slavery is in sight.

Lesson 6: The Year 1864

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What major events happened in March?
2. What did the 13th Amendment provide?
3. Where was the Fort Pillow Massacre?
4. How long did the atrocities continued?
5. What actions did President Lincoln take in June?
6. Describe the Douglass-Lincoln meeting of August 16th.
7. What did the voters in Louisiana accomplish?
8. Name the two battles that occurred on September 29th.
9. What number of U.S. Colored Combat Troops received the Medal of Honor?
10. What took place on October 13th in Maryland?
11. Who did President Lincoln greet on October 29th?
12. What was the purpose?

Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman become Lincoln's two leading generals in the final thrust of the Civil War.

Grant moves south in a hard-fought campaign to pin down Lee's Confederate army at Petersburg, near Richmond.

The Federal government confiscates the Arlington estate of Confederate general Robert E. Lee and turns it into a war cemetery.

William Tecumseh Sherman captures Atlanta, the first important southern city to fall into Union hands.

President Lincoln is re-elected for a second term, thanks to recent Union successes on the Civil War battlefields

William T. Sherman reaches the coast and captures Savannah, after his violently destructive 'march to the sea.'

March

March 13 - Lincoln drafts letter to Louisiana asking for Black voting rights.



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March 16 - Voters in AR ratify abolition of slavery.

April

April 8 - Senate passed the 13th Amendment.

April 12 - Ft. Pillow Massacre, TN; 300+ black soldiers were killed; atrocities last 6 months. The Fort Pillow Massacre in Tennessee on April 12, 1864, in which some 300 African American soldiers were killed, was one of the most controversial events of the American Civil War (1861-65). Though most of the Union garrison surrendered, and thus should have been taken as prisoners of war, the soldiers were killed. The Confederate refusal to treat these troops as traditional prisoners of war infuriated the North and led to the Union's refusal to participate in prisoner exchanges.

Union survivors' accounts, later supported by a federal investigation, concluded that African American troops were massacred by Forrest's men after surrendering. Southern accounts disputed these findings. Forrest, himself, claimed that he and his troops had done nothing wrong and that the Union men were killed because Bradford had refused to surrender. Controversy over the battle continues today. (Editors, HISTORY, 2021)

June

June 15 - House fails to vote on 13th Amendment.

President Lincoln signs bill for retroactive equal pay.

June 28 - Lincoln signs Repeal of Fugitive Slave Act.

July

July 30 - Battle of the Crater, Petersburg. Virginia

August

August 16 - Fredrick Douglass meets Lincoln, worried more slaves not moving to Emancipation. Lincoln asks Douglass to send scouts through Rebel lines to encourage more.

September

September 5 - Voters in Louisiana ratify abolition of slavery.

September 21 - William H. Costley Voluntary Enlistment with a dozen others, including two of his brothers-in-law, born in Sept. 1840 (Day unknown) Died: Oct 1, 1888,



September 29 - Battle of Chaffin's Farm, 14 USCT earns Medal of Honor.

September 29 - Battle of New Market 200 "Butler, USCT Medal"

October

October 13 - Voters in Maryland ratify abolition of slavery.

October 29 - Lincoln Meets Sojourner Truth; 1st Black woman to sue in court against a white man and won.

November

November 8 Lincoln Reelected president.



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Lesson 7: The Year 1865

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. What were the major events of January?
2. Describe General Sherman's Field Order #16 and its significance today.
3. President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment into law on what date?
4. What actions took place in Illinois and Tennessee?
5. What Executive Action did President Lincoln take in March?
6. What took place on April 9th at Appomattox?
7. What did President Lincoln offer Black soldiers and sailors?
8. U.S. Colored Combat Troops rushed back to Washington, D.C. for what purpose?
9. What was the number of black soldiers that fought in the War?
10. How many of them died in battle?
11. What was the number that achieved the rank of Commissioned Officer?
12. What was the percentage of Freed People at the end of the War?

January

January 11 - Missouri Constitution abolishes slavery.

January 13 - US House of Reps passed the 13th Amendment!

January 16 - General Sherman Field Order #16; "40 acres (about twice the area of Chicago's Millennium Park) and a mule."

February

February 1 - Lincoln signs the 13th Amendment!

IL "Black Laws" repealed

February 22 - TN Constitution abolishes slavery.

March

March 3 - Lincoln Signs order for the freedom for wives and children of Black soldiers' families.

Lincoln signs bill for Freedmen's Bureau.

March 4 - Lincoln Inaugural

March 28 - Last spring offensive begins Richmond/Petersburg, VA.



April

After four long bloody years, the Confederate army's stronghold surrendered to the United States in April of 1865. The war bankrupted the South, and all but wiped out an entire generation of men leaving more than 620,000 men (about half the population of Hawaii) dead: more than any other war in American history. But when the war ended, in April 1865, only about fifteen percent (15%) of the enslaved had been freed.

April 9 - General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox

April 11 - Lincoln last speech; offers some Black men voting rights.

April 12 - War of Rebellion officially ends!!!

April 14/15 - Abraham Lincoln assassinated.

April 16 - Some USCT Regiment is rushed back to DC funeral.

Black Soldiers in the Civil War

According to the National Archives:

"By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers died over the course of the war- 30,000 of infection or disease. Black soldiers served in artillery and infantry and performed all noncombat support functions that sustain an army, as well. Black carpenters, chaplains, cooks, guards, laborers, nurses, scouts, spies, steamboat pilots, surgeons, and teamsters also contributed to the war cause. There were nearly 80 black commissioned officers. Black women, who could not formally join the Army, nonetheless served as nurses, spies, and scouts.

June 19 - Galveston, TX Juneteenth!

The enslaved people in Texas did not get the word until June 19, 1865. The state's Government simply chose not to follow Federal law and opted instead to conceal the Executive mandate by coalescing with the elite plantation owners, who for the most part was the aristocracy of the time, known as The Planter Society, to facilitate the harvesting of their cotton. Freedom was not known until Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX on June 18th with 1800 troops. Then on June 19th, 1865, Granger issued General No.3 advising all, that slaves had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment. Thus, began what is now known as Juneteenth. It is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. The celebration not only commemorates African American freedom throughout America, but it also emphasizes education and achievement internationally. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. It had to be providence for Major General Granger arrival in Galveston, on the way to defend the Texas border from French incursion, to deliver the news of freedom.



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December

December 18 - 13th Amendment ratified; slavery abolished.

December 31/January 1 - first formal, organized Juneteenth

Lesson 8: Juneteenth 1866

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to answer, explain or describe the following:

1. Who were The Planter Society?
2. What was their purpose?
3. What field order did Maj. General Granger issue?
4. What date was the 13th Amendment finally ratified?
5. What documents are commonly referred to as the "Civil War Amendments?"
6. When did slavery end in the Territories?
7. What Native American people were affected?
8. What were the four provisions of the Treaties?
9. When was the first formal Juneteenth Celebration?

A Civil Rights Act is passed by the US Congress, guaranteeing the legal rights of African Americans. The Fourteenth Amendment to the US constitution (not ratified till 1868) assures equal rights as citizens to all born or naturalized in the USA.

January

January 1 - Freedom Day Celebration in Galveston Texas

June

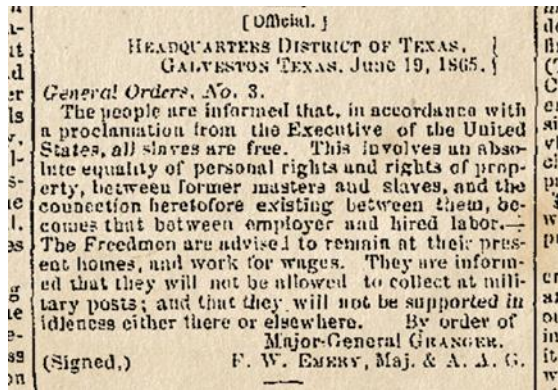
14 June 1866 was the official end of slavery in the Territory:

Regarding the four major treaties that were negotiated and formally signed in 1866 – one with the Cherokee, the Creek, the Seminole, and a combined treaty with the Chickasaw and Choctaw. These treaties each contained four major provisions. To begin with, as punishment for aiding the Confederate rebellion, each tribe forfeited lands amounting to about half of their designated protected territory. The second provision of these treaties declared a general amnesty for all Native Americans.

The final two provisions concerned ending slavery. Language identical to that in the 13th Amendment was written into each treaty, guaranteeing an end to the institution of slavery the final provision provided for the adoption of all freed slaves as immediate and recognized citizens within their respective tribes.



19 June 1866 - Juneteenth the first of many anniversaries. Juneteenth commemorations take place across America.



HISTORIC JUNETEENTH SUMMARY: Texas was the last state in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not announced in the last state practicing enslavement until Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas and issued General Order #3, on June 19, 1865, "JUNETEENTH," almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. JUNETEENTH is now an annual observance to

celebrate the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining enslaved in Texas and surrounding territories. However, there were three states that rejected the 13th Amendment and did not ratify it until the 20th Century: Delaware (February 12, 1901); Kentucky (March 18, 1976); and Mississippi voted to ratify the 13th Amendment on March 16, 1995, but it was not officially ratified until February 7, 2013.

Modern Juneteenth Movement

In 1994, the era of the "Modern Juneteenth Movement" began when a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, LA, at Christian Unity Baptist Church, Rev. Dwight Webster, Pastor, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth. The historic meeting was convened by Rev. John Mosley, Director of the New Orleans Juneteenth Freedom Celebration. Several national Juneteenth organizations were birthed from this historic gathering including the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF). Shortly prior to this gathering, Juneteenth America, Inc., (JAI) was founded by John Thompson, who organized the first National Juneteenth Convention & Expo, and the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF) founded by Ben Haith, the creator of the National Juneteenth Flag.

In 1997, through the leadership of Lula Briggs Galloway, President of the NAJL and Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Chairman of the NAJL, the U.S. Congress officially passed historic legislation recognizing Juneteenth as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in America.

As of 2019, 49 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to officially recognize Juneteenth. The NJOF directly contributed to 44 states legislation. The annual Congressional Juneteenth Reception and National Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast are now a Washington D.C. tradition.

June 17, 2021 Juneteenth is now a Federally recognized holiday giving national recognition to a day commemorating emancipation. It was signed into law by the 46th President of the U.S. Joe Biden. "Juneteenth marks both a long, hard night of slavery and subjugation and the promise of a brighter morning to come," Biden said in a signing ceremony at the White House. "This is a day, in my view, of profound weight and profound power, a day in which we remember the moral stain, terrible toll that slavery took on the country and continues



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to take." <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/biden-signs-law-bill-establishing-juneteenth-federal-holiday-n1271213>

Senator Edward Markey, who supported the Juneteenth legislation, had this to say “Making Juneteenth a federal holiday will not right all the wrongs of the past or fix what remains broken. But it is an important step. It is the truth of our history and the missing half of the story of our nation’s freedom and independence. I could not be happier this week that the United States Senate voted to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, that the House of Representatives passed the bill on Wednesday, and that President Biden is expected to sign it into law.” <https://www.masslive.com/opinion/2021/06/sen-edward-markey-juneteenth-recognition-is-an-important-first-step-guest-viewpoint.html>

“For far too long, the story of our country’s history has been incomplete as we have failed to acknowledge, address, and come to grips with our nation’s original sin of slavery,” said **Senator Markey**. “Today’s Senate passage of our legislation to commemorate Juneteenth as a federal holiday will address this long-ignored gap in our history, recognize the wrong that was done, acknowledge the pain and suffering of generations of slaves and their descendants, and finally celebrate their freedom. The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act gives recognition and voice to those who suffered and finally makes this day of celebration, liberation, and hope a federal holiday. I thank Senators Smith, Cornyn, Booker, Warnock, and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation for working so hard to make this holiday a reality.”



From left, Rep. Danny Davis, Sen. Ed Markey, Steve Williams, president of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, and Sen. Tina Smith pose with the Juneteenth flag on Wednesday in Washington. (BILL CLARK/CQ-ROLL CALL, INC VIA GETTY IMAGES)



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