

STEAMS Juneteenth Project-Based Lesson Plan (7-12)

Objective: The objective of this interdisciplinary lesson plan is to explore the historical significance and legacy of Juneteenth, focusing on the events of 1865 and 1866. Through a STEAMS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies) approach, students will engage in a comprehensive exploration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, the subsequent celebrations, and the enduring impact on American society. Suitable for grades 7-12, this lesson plan celebrates Juneteenth and promotes cultural diversity and inclusivity.

Key Components

Science (S): Health and Environmental Conditions Post-Emancipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Topic: Explore the health and environmental conditions faced by newly emancipated African Americans.❖ Project: Investigate the spread of diseases and the lack of medical resources in newly freed communities. Create a detailed map or 3D model of a typical freedmen's camp or community, highlighting possible reasons for spread of disease.
Technology (T): Communication and Dissemination of Emancipation News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Topic: Investigate how news of emancipation was spread to enslaved African Americans, including the role of technology and communication methods of the time.❖ Project: Study the significance of General Order No. 3 and its dissemination by Union General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas. Create a prototype of historical communication devices, such as printing presses or

	<p>telegraphs, to understand their role in spreading the news of freedom.</p>
<p>Engineering (E): Reconstruction and Community Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Study the engineering challenges and solutions in rebuilding African American communities during Reconstruction. ❖ Project: Examine the efforts to build infrastructure and housing for newly freed African Americans. Develop proposals for engineering projects that address the needs of these communities, integrating principles of sustainability and social responsibility.
<p>Arts (A): Artistic Expression and Celebration of Freedom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Examine the artistic expressions that emerged to celebrate freedom and Juneteenth, including music, visual arts, and literature. ❖ Project: Explore the role of spirituals, folk songs, and storytelling in African American culture post-emancipation. Create original artworks, performances, or literary works inspired by the themes of emancipation and Juneteenth celebrations.

<p>Math (M): Demographics and Economic Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Analyze the demographic changes and economic impact of emancipation on the Southern economy. ❖ Project: Study census data from the period and the economic transition from slave labor to free labor. Use mathematical models to analyze the economic effects (labor, macroeconomics, supply and demand etc.) of emancipation on both African American communities and the broader Southern economy.
<p>Social Studies (SS): Historical Context and Significance of Juneteenth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Explore the historical events leading up to and following Juneteenth, including the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War's conclusion. ❖ Project: Investigate the significance of June 19, 1865, when General Granger announced the freedom of enslaved people in Texas. Research and create presentations or exhibits highlighting significant figures, events, and the cultural impact of Juneteenth in 1866 and beyond.

Assessment Criteria

By the end of this lesson plan, students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Juneteenth's historical significance, achievements, and contributions across STEAMS disciplines. Assessment will be based on project completion, research quality, critical analysis, creativity, and the effectiveness of interdisciplinary connections. This STEAMS Juneteenth Project-Based Lesson Plan celebrates the history and legacy of African American emancipation, fostering empathy, understanding, and appreciation for cultural heritage and diversity in American society.