

Learn About Juneteenth

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.” —General Orders, Number 3; Headquarters District of Texas, Galveston, June 19, 1865

The Celebration

Juneteenth is an important day in African-American communities yet it was difficult to do so because there were still many ways in which Black people continued to face systemic racism. They lived without jobs, money, or property and their families had been torn apart by slavery. As Jim Crow laws spread, the celebrations became less popular. However, celebrations spread through out Texas and the surrounding states where many displaced African Americans relocated.

No longer enslaved and barred from wearing fancier clothing, many dressed in the finest clothes they could find, attended church services, music festivals, and enjoyed food festivals which included the inclusion of red-colored foods such as strawberry and watermelon symbolizes strength and **perseverance**. Some popular foods include Strawberry and Watermelon Soda, Collard Greens, Lamb, Beef, Fried Chicken, Cornbread, and Red Beans.



The Juneteenth Flag

