

# FREEDOM(ISH) A JUNETEENTH PRIMER



## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Many people think that the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed people considered to be slaves, "within rebellious states" from the white supremacist institution of slavery.

**BUT....**



## THE LAST STRONG HOLD

It is said that because Texas was the state farthest removed from the Union that the word of freedom was slow to arrive (**not almost 2.5 years slow!**). At any rate, Texas failed to free their enslaved in 1863. In fact, Texas would not go on to free their enslaved, by order of General Order No. 3, until **June 19, 1865**. Hence the holiday name **Juneteenth!**

**ISH....**



Now, not all enslaved people were freed on Juneteenth. There were still those left in Union territory. They were not freed until December of 1867 by way of the Thirteenth Amendment. Over time (**1868 & 1874**), the Freedmen of Texas were given legal status by the Texas Supreme Court. Thus many early Juneteenths were political rallies to support voting rights to Freedmen. **BUT** it doesn't end there. Jim Crow laws were enacted and enforced until 1965.



## A CELEBRATION



Juneteenth is considered to be the true Black Independence Day. Formally enslaved citizens, in Galveston, TX (**location of the announcement**) celebrated after the announcement, but it wouldn't be until the following year that freedmen of Texas would organize the first of the annual celebrations of what is known as Jubilee Day. In Austin 1867, under the Freedmen's Bureau, Juneteenth was first celebrated.

# IN OBSERVANCE How to Celebrate JUNETEENTH

- Dig deeper to learn more about Juneteenth and teach other people about it.
- Learn the Black National Anthem- and teach it to your kids (or nieces, nephews, nibblings, etc)!
- Volunteer in the community

If you are white, consider leveraging your privilege and donate to projects and movements led by Black people. There are several in Louisville:

- Black Lives Matter- Louisville
- Feed the West
- Louisville Community Bail Fund

If you are Black or a Person of Color

- If you have been protesting on the front lines, **TAKE A BREAK!**
- If you haven't been protesting on the frontlines, **TAKE A BREAK!** 2020 has been utterly exhausting and it's only June.
- Take part in any of the virtual Juneteenth celebrations or group healing sessions.

- Join Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
- If you know a person of color protesting on the frontlines, take their place.
- Commit to being an anti-racist white person and embody the work so that you show up as such where you live, work and play.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing' Til  
earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of  
Liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies  
Let it resound loud as the  
rolling sea  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught  
us  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought  
us  
Facing the rising sun of our  
new day begun  
Let us march on 'til victory is  
won

## BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM (LIFT EVERY VOICE) JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had  
died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers  
sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears  
has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through  
the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past'  
Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is  
cast

God of our weary years, God of our silent  
tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the  
way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our  
God, where we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the  
world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand. True to our God,  
True to our native land.



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