

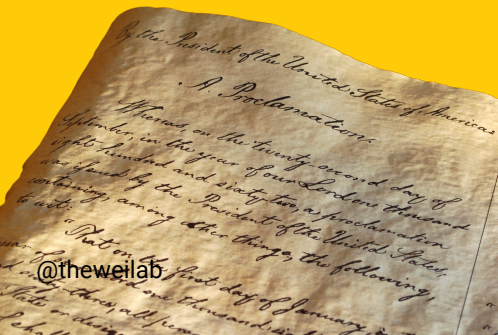
HAPPY JUNETEENTH



**READ THROUGH TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE HISTORY
OF JUNETEENTH AND
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
HOLIDAY TODAY**

JUNETEENTH IS THE OLDEST KNOWN COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

Two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, news finally arrived in Texas that the war was over on June 19th, 1865. Enslaved people left the plantations they were held on, and traveled North. Along the way, freed Black people sought out family members held in the South along the way.



TODAY, JUNETEENTH IS CELEBRATED THROUGH FESTIVITIES AMONG THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Juneteenth activities have a special focus on education and self-improvement, as guest speakers and elders recount stories of freedom. The festivities hold great importance to those in the Black community that celebrate.

Traditionally, foods such as BBQ, red velvet cake, and strawberry soda are enjoyed on this day.

Some communities arrange rodeos, baseball games, or block parties to celebrate.



DESPITE PREVIOUS FALLING RATES OF CELEBRATIONS, JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS ARE ON THE RISE AGAIN.

As classroom education replaced home schooling, textbooks did not mention the significance of Juneteenth. Classroom curriculum's failure to mention the importance of Juneteenth led to a decrease in noted celebrations. Further into the 1900s, the Great Depression lent to a decline in festivities.

However, following resurgence during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s, Juneteenth is once again widely celebrated. Black youth in the movement placed importance on Juneteenth celebrations highlighting Black excellence, rather than commemorating Black pain.



JUNETEENTH AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

In recent years, the Black community has been calling on government officials to recognize Juneteenth as an official US holiday. Currently, 47 states and DC recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday/observation. The Black Lives Matter movement is pushing to gain federal recognition.

In Wisconsin, as of the August 2020, In the Dane County Board approved a bill to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for all county government employees.

TODAY, JUNETEENTH IS A DAY TO CELEBRATE BLACK FREEDOM AND ACHIEVEMENT. THE HOLIDAY SYMBOLIZES AN ERA OF DEVELOPMENT AND JOY FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY.



***HAPPY JUNETEENTH
FROM THE WEI LAB!***