

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

# Juneteenth

## READING COMPREHENSION

Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States.

It is observed every year on June 19. The name "Juneteenth" comes from combining the words "June" and "nineteenth."

Although President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863

many enslaved African Americans in Texas did not learn they were free until June 19, 1865.

On that day, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that slavery had ended.

After freedom was announced, many African Americans celebrated with music, food, prayer, dancing, and parades.

Families gathered together to remember their history and honor their ancestors.

Today, Juneteenth is recognized as an important holiday that celebrates freedom, equality, and African American culture.

In 2021, Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday in the United States.

People across the country now celebrate by attending festivals, reading about history, supporting Black-owned businesses, and spending time with family and friends.

1.) Why is Juneteenth an important holiday?

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2.) Name two activities people do during Juneteenth celebrations.

\_\_\_\_\_

3.) What does the word "Juneteenth" mean?

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4.) Where did Union soldiers announce the end of slavery?

\_\_\_\_\_

5.) Why do families gather together on Juneteenth?

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