

Sensitive Topic Resource Disclaimer



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. This resource contains potentially sensitive and/or upsetting topics that may emotionally impact on students you use it with due to their experiences in their past. It is your responsibility to consider whether it is appropriate to use this resource with your students. If you do use this resource, it is your responsibility to ensure that appropriate support is available for anyone affected.

Scissors Disclaimer

To ensure the safety of the children in your setting, it is your responsibility to assess whether adult supervision or other appropriate safety measures are required when using scissors.

Read-Aloud

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19th. The name “Juneteenth” is a combination of June and 19th. The holiday is also called Jubilee Day. Juneteenth is a celebration of the end of enslavement. On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared that all enslaved people were free. People all over the country celebrated. Many African Americans came together in churches and homes to celebrate. On February 1, 1865, more than a year later, President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment. The 13th Amendment says, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime where of the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

In Texas, many people remained enslaved even years later. On June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas by horseback. He came with over 2,000 troops. He brought the message that all people were free, and enslavement was now illegal. The holiday, Juneteenth, is a celebration of this day. One year later, in 1866, Juneteenth was celebrated for the first time.

The celebration of Juneteenth can look different for different people. Celebrations often include religious services, family gatherings, food, music, and dancing. Speeches are also a common way to celebrate. Although mainly celebrated in the United States, people worldwide also celebrate Juneteenth. Many people use Juneteenth to elevate and recognize the beauty of Black culture and achievements. On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became an official federal holiday. President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in the East Room of the White House. Many cities around the United States hold special celebrations commemorating this important day.