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Juneteenth

What is Juneteenth? Where did it Originate? When do you celebrate it? Why do we celebrate it? Many people ask these same questions to themselves when they first hear Juneteenth. Some think it's just a holiday from another country, like Saint Patrick's Day came from Ireland or like Hanukkah came from Israel, but it's nothing like those. Juneteenth, believe it or not, is a celebration that originated in the U.S. It's a celebration that not only African-Americans celebrate, but Americans too. To learn more about this special commemoration, let's start with the first question. What is Juneteenth?

Let's go back to June 19th 1865, imagine you're an African-American in Galveston, Texas, you're working as a farmer, wearing a cheap piece of blanket as clothing, and not being treated well, basically you have been a slave for months or even years, until this guy called General Gordon Granger comes in and informs you that you are free. Long story short, that's what happened. Juneteenth is the day of the year when you celebrate the freedom of African-American slaves. You can think it as Juneteenth were a mix of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Independence Day. So, now you know what Juneteenth is, but now you may be wondering, where did it originate?

Juneteenth originated in Galveston, Texas. It was when African-American slaves were informed they were free from slavery two and a half years later, after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation meant slaves in the U.S. were free from slavery. In other words, the African-American slaves from Galveston, Texas, didn't know they were free until General Gordon Granger told them otherwise. Now we know what Juneteenth is and where it originated, but that still leaves the question, when do we celebrate Juneteenth and why?

We celebrate Juneteenth as the day the African-American slaves from Galveston, Texas, were told that they were free, which was June 19th 1865. In fact, that is where the name comes from. Juneteenth comes from the combination of June and nineteenth, which results in Juneteenth. Other names for this day are Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day. We celebrate this day to remember the freedom of African-Americans. Juneteenth is also the day to remember that no one should be discriminated against or

punished by what color their skin is. Everyone is important and Juneteenth reminds us that everyone should be treated equally and that racism shouldn't be a thing.

To sum it up, Juneteenth is a really important celebration, especially for African-Americans. This reminds them that they are important as they are and if there is an injustice, people will do whatever they can to make things right, as it was done by the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many more. Even though Texas is the only state that has Juneteenth as a paid holiday, many states accept and celebrate Juneteenth. So no matter what color skin you have or where you're from, you're equally important.