

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Juneteenth

Today we're going to talk about Juneteenth...in just a minute.

On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It announced that all enslaved people in the Confederate States were free. However, it took more than two years for many of those people to really be free.

That's because, in some areas under Confederate control, local leaders didn't implement the decree. The last state to do so was Texas. On June 19, 1865, 2,000 Union troops marched into the city of Galveston and enforced the Emancipation Proclamation. A quarter million Black people living in Texas were finally free.

From that day forward, June 19th—shortened to Juneteenth—became an annual day of celebration, like an Independence Day for Black Americans. Today, we celebrate Juneteenth—also called Freedom Day—by gathering with family and friends for cookouts and fireworks.

On June 17th, 2021, President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth a federal holiday. What do you think went into the decision to make Juneteenth a national holiday?