Read to Learn

Juneteenth

Read the story –" Freedom's Echo" – below, then answer the comprehension questions on the following page.

Once upon a time, in a small town called Freedomville, there lived a group of children. They loved playing hide-and-seek, climbing trees, and sharing stories under the warm Texas sun.

One sunny afternoon, their Grandma Ruby gathered them around. She had a twinkle in her eye, and her voice carried the weight of history. "Children," she said, "today, we celebrate Juneteenth." "Juneteenth?" asked one child, her eyes wide with curiosity.

"Yes," Grandma Ruby replied. "You see, a long time ago, our ancestors were enslaved. They worked hard on plantations, but they dreamed of freedom."

Another leaned in. "How did they get free, Grandma?

"Well," Grandma Ruby began, "President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It said that all enslaved people were free. But it took a while for the news to reach everyone."
One boy scratched his head. "Why did it take so long?"

"Ah," Grandma Ruby said, "that's where Juneteenth comes in. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and announced that the enslaved people were finally free. Can you imagine their joy?"

The children exchanged excited glances. "So, Juneteenth is like a freedom party!" one exclaimed. "Exactly!" Grandma Ruby nodded. "People danced, sang, prayed, and hugged each other. They celebrated their newfound freedom. And every year since then, we honor that day."



"But why is it important?" one child asked.
"Juneteenth reminds us," Grandma Ruby said, "that freedom is precious. It's not just about breaking chains; it's about lifting hearts. We remember our past struggles and celebrate how far we've come."

The children listened, their imaginations soaring. They decided to organize their own Juneteenth celebration. They made colorful banners, danced to lively music, and shared stories of courage and hope.
As the sun dipped below the horizon, Grandma Ruby smiled. "Children," she said, "freedom echoes through time. It's our duty to pass it on—to remember, to celebrate, and to keep dreaming."

And so, in Freedomville, the laughter of children blended with the whispers of ancestors. Juneteenth became more than a date; it became a promise—a promise to honor the past and create a brighter future.

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension

Tick the true statements and cross out the false ones.

- Juneteenth originated in Texas. ☐
- The people of Texas were aware of the Emancipation Proclamation immediately. ☐
- Juneteenth is celebrated on June 28. ☐
- Juneteenth reminds us that freedom is precious. ☐

Explain what is meant by the following description:

Juneteenth is like a freedom party.

_____

_____

Answer the question below using complete sentences.

Who was the president that signed the Emancipation Proclamation?

_____

_____

Which general delivered the news to the people of Texas?

_____

_____

Name: _____

THINK ABOUT IT

Put yourself in the position of those celebrating the first Juneteenth. How do you think they felt? What would you do?





Name: _____

CREATIVE WRITING PROMPT

It's a typical hot Monday in June of 1865. That morning, it was business as usual for the slaves in Galveston, Texas, but by that evening, life as they knew it had changed. General Gordon Granger arrived and announced that the Civil War had ended and the slaves were freed.

Put yourself into the position of one of those young slaves. What would you have felt and thought? How would you have acted? Where would you want to go? Before, you had no options. Now, the potential is limitless... What will you do with your newfound freedom?



Task: Using the passage above as a prompt, write a short story. Remember to use a variety of nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs to make your story more interesting for your readers!