

Welcome!

Grade 5, Unit 9 Juneteenth and Beyond

Dear Family Member,

This unit will take students on a journey beyond **Juneteenth**.

What's the story?

Students will learn about **Juneteenth**. They will also explore specific **contributions of African Americans** from 1865 to present day.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about General Granger's announcement in Galveston, Texas on June 19th, 1865: a day marked in history as **Juneteenth**, when **enslaved African Americans** in Texas finally learned of the **Emancipation Proclamation**. A review of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation will provide students with background knowledge to further emphasize the significance of **Juneteenth** and the **13th Amendment in American history**. They will use read-alouds, independent, and partner reading to learn about **African American contributions** from 1865 to present. Near the end of the unit, they will read excerpts from one of the great works of American ethics, the "**Letter from Birmingham Jail**" written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., examining its framing of justice, its commitment to law and order, and its religious inspiration, including an analysis of King's comparison to actions described in the Book of Daniel.

Students will also participate in a virtual field trip to Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas, and utilize the knowledge sequence in this unit to collaboratively **generate research** questions about Juneteenth, the Great Migration, innovators, inventors, and entrepreneurs, and people who fought to advance civil rights and justice. They will also **research** to find answers to their generated questions, **gather information**, and **write** a four chapter **Beyond Juneteenth book**.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Where and when did the Juneteenth announcement occur?
Follow up: What state first adopted Juneteenth as an official holiday?
2. Where were some hubs across the United States for African Americans during the Great Migration of 1916-1970?
Follow up: What were some reasons African Americans migrated to different states during the Great Migration?
3. Who are some notable African American inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs?
Follow up: What are some products and innovations created by African American inventors and entrepreneurs that we use daily?