

CELEBRATING

JUNETEENTH





JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

HISTORY

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the US. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, slaves were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation.

The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, had established that all enslaved people “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”, but, this didn’t instantly free all enslaved people. The proclamation only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control.

In Texas, slavery had continued as the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops. Many enslavers from outside the Lone Star State had moved there, as they viewed it as a safe haven for slavery.

After the war came to a close in the spring of 1865, General Granger’s arrival in Galveston that June signaled freedom for Texas’s 250,000 enslaved people. Although emancipation didn’t happen overnight for everyone—in some cases, enslavers withheld the information until after harvest season—celebrations broke out among newly freed Black people, and Juneteenth was born. That December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment.

The year following 1865, freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19th. In the ensuing decades, Juneteenth commemorations featured music, barbecues, prayer services and other activities, and as Black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country the Juneteenth tradition spread.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Today, 47 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday and just this week the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill to recognize this date as a federal holiday.

This guide to help supply resources and materials to help deepen your understanding of African American History, celebrate how far we’ve come and acknowledge how far we still must go.

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COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS

JUNETEENTH FLAG



The Juneteenth flag represents the history, and freedom of the American Slaves and their descendants.

The design depicts a bursting new star on the horizon which represents a new freedom, a new people, a new star. **The red, white and blue colors communicate that the American Slaves, and their descendants were all American**

PAN – AFRICAN FLAG

You may also see a red, black and green flag flying at Juneteenth barbecues, as well. That's the Pan-African flag, adopted by the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) at a conference in New York City in 1920.

The UNIA drafted and adopted the Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World on August 13, 1920, at New York City's Madison Square Garden. It included the declaration that red, black and green be the colors signifying the African race. Those **three colors represent the blood, soil and prosperity of Africa and its people**



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WATCH

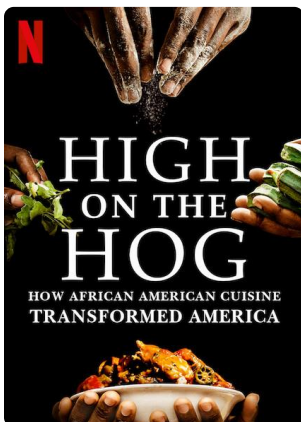
Goin' Back to T-Town

Goin' Back to T-Town tells the story of Greenwood, an extraordinary Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that prospered during the 1920s and 30s despite rampant and hostile segregation. Torn apart in 1921 by one of the worst racially-motivated massacres in the nation's history, the neighborhood rose from the ashes, and by 1936 boasted the largest concentration of Black-owned businesses in the U.S., known as "Black Wall Street."

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/t-town/#part01>

Watchmen

HBO's critically-acclaimed series stars Regina King and explores the legacy of white supremacy and systemic racism in America. HBO is making the entire nine-episode limited series free to stream from Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21 exclusively on HBO.com and on-demand. Plus, HBO is also airing a marathon on HBO and HBO Latino starting at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 19.



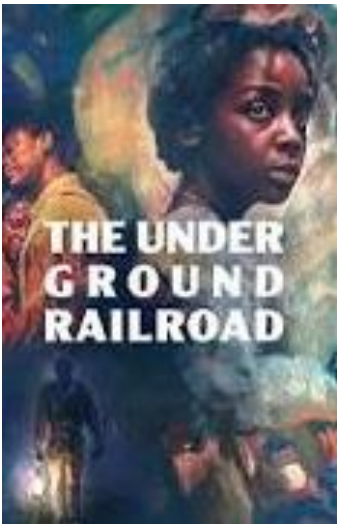
High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America

This series explores African American cuisine and examines the influence of racial disparity, classism, and labor relations on African American food culture. It will give viewers a deeper understanding of America's deep-rooted history of slavery, and the impact on American food as we know it today. Watch this 4-episode docuseries on Netflix.

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The Underground Railroad

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Colson Whitehead, The Underground Railroad is a new series that chronicles Cora Randall's desperate bid for freedom in the Antebellum South. After escaping a Georgia plantation for the rumored Underground Railroad, Core discovers no mere metaphor, but an actual railroad beneath the Southern Soil. All episodes available to stream on Amazon Prime.



Them

This anthology series explores terror in America. The first season, set in the 1950's centers around a Black family who move from North Carolina to an all-white Los Angeles neighborhood. Their idyllic homes becomes ground zero where malevolent forces, next door and otherworldly, threaten to taunt, ravage and destroy them. All episodes for season 1 are available to stream on Amazon Prime.

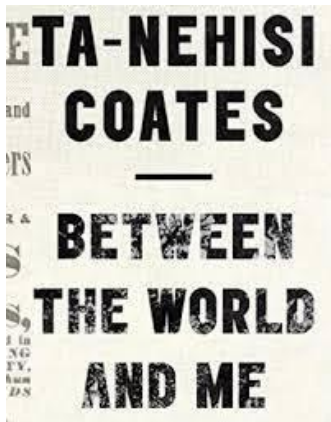
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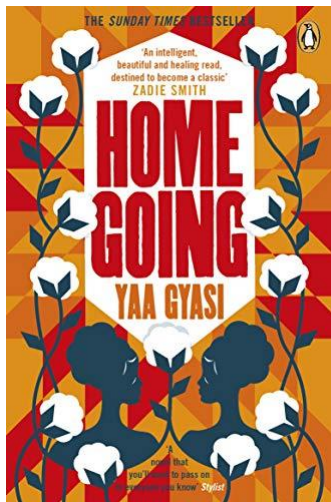
READ

This Pulitzer Award winning interactive **1619 Project**, aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the center of the US national narrative. The 1619 Project was first published in the New York Times Magazine in August 2019 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans arriving in colonial Virginia. Check out this project here –

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>



Between the World and Me is a 2015 nonfiction book written by American author Ta-Nehisi Coates. It is written as a letter to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States



One of Oprah's Best Books of the Year and a PEN/Hemingway award winner, **Homegoing** follows the parallel paths of two sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

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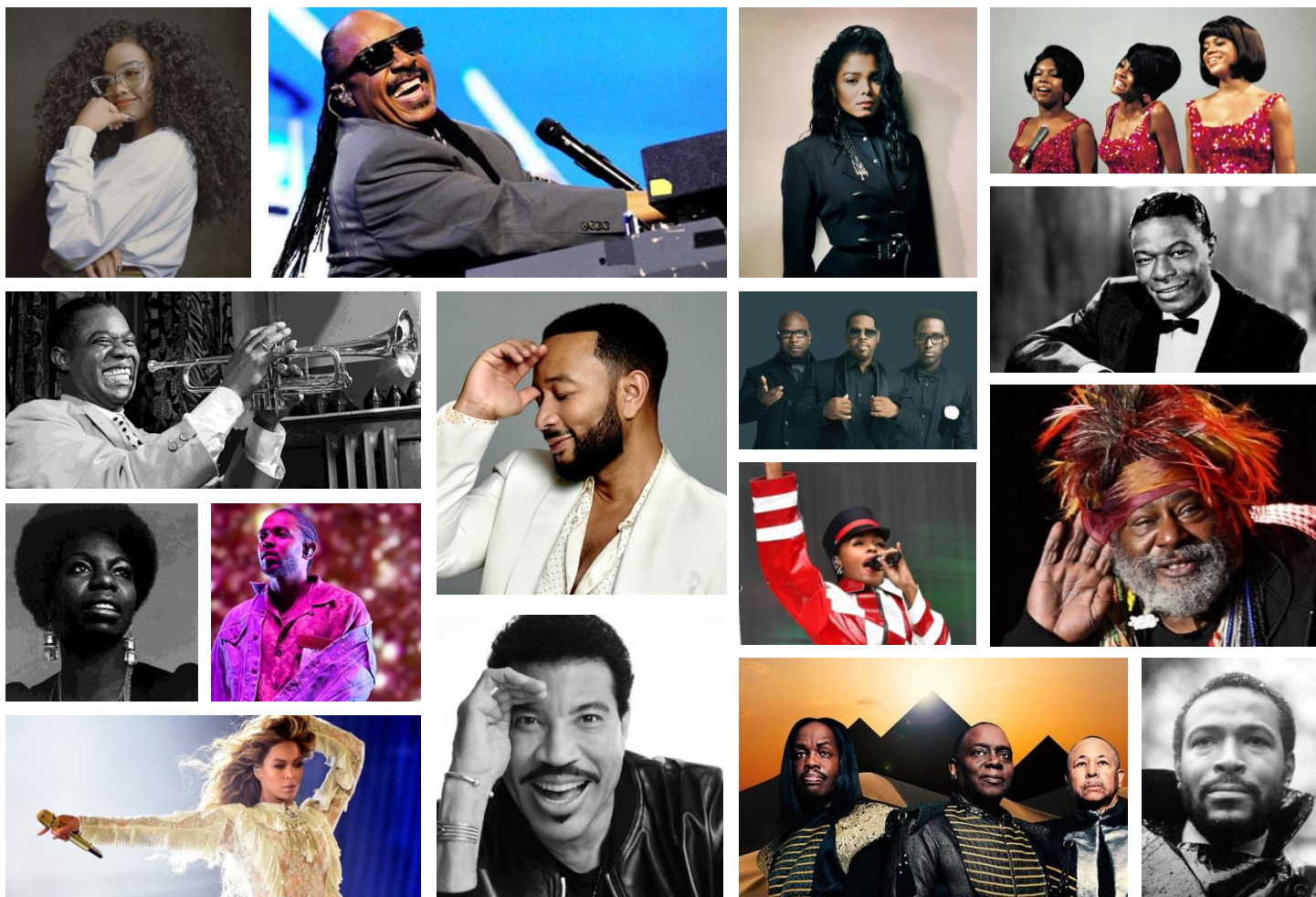
LISTEN

June is African American Music Appreciation Month! Created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, this month celebrates the African American musical influences that comprise an essential part of our nation's treasured cultural heritage.

Check out our curated collection of Blues, Jazz, Soul, Funk, R&B, Hip Hop, Pop and Rap music featuring a list African American musicians that spans decades.

We put together a group of our favorite icons and lesser-known singers, the songs are popular or sometimes forgotten, and we bring out the old school as well as the up and coming. Hoping this playlist allows to explore the African American voices that continue to shape American music.

Listen to this playlist here - <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4GDt4F2u1HUwAZxXP3klmd?si=6e2d181f56ee4f01>



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SOUL FOOD

Soul food refers to the foods and techniques associated with the African American cuisine of the United States.

Following their emancipation from slavery in the 1860s, African American cooks expanded on the coarse diet that had been provided them by slave owners but still made do with little. Most of the foods they prepared were common to all the rural poor of the south, but these foods and food-preparation techniques were carried north by African Americans during the Great Migration and thus became identified with African American culture.

The term was first used in print in 1964 during the rise of "Black pride," when many aspects of African American culture—including soul music—were celebrated for their contribution to the American way of life. The term celebrated the ingenuity and skill of cooks who were able to form a distinctive cuisine despite limited means.

A typical soul food meal would feature:

- **Sides:** black-eyed peas, candied yams, macaroni and cheese, and stewed greens (cabbage, collard greens, kale, mustard, or turnip), cornbread
- **Entree:** chicken, fried fish, or pork
- **Beverage:** a red-colored drink (simply called "red drink")
- **Dessert:** banana pudding, peach cobbler, pound cake, or sweet potato pie.



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MAKE A DISH

Collard Greens

Ingredients

- 12 hickory-smoked bacon slices, finely chopped
- 2 medium-size sweet onions, finely chopped
- 3/4 pound smoked ham, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 3 (32-oz.) containers chicken broth
- 3 (1-lb.) packages fresh collard greens, washed and trimmed
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon pepper



Instructions

Cook bacon over medium heat in a 10-qt. stockpot for 10 to 12 minutes or until almost crisp. Add onion to stockpot, and sauté 8 minutes. Add garlic and ham, and sauté 1 minute. Stir in broth, collard greens, apple cider vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper. Cook 2 hours or until desired degree of tenderness.



Sweet Potato Pie

Ingredients

- Dough for single-crust pie
- 2 medium sweet potatoes (~1.5 pounds), peeled & cubed
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs at room temperature, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Instructions

Place sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan; add water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook, uncovered, until tender, 13-15 minutes. Drain potatoes; return to pan. Mash until very smooth; cool to room temperature.

Preheat oven to 425°. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; transfer to a 9-in. pie plate. Trim crust to 1/2 in. beyond rim of plate; flute edge. Refrigerate while preparing filling.

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs; mix well. Add milk, two cups mashed sweet potatoes, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; mix well. Pour into crust. Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°; bake until set or a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 35-40 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Refrigerate leftover.

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VIRTUAL EVENTS



Smithsonian

Juneteenth: A Celebration of Resilience

This weekend the National Museum of African American History & Culture is celebrating Juneteenth with a variety of FREE virtual educational sessions to mark this historic weekend. Details and links to these previously recorded sessions and virtual watch are below.

Porch Stories – Tales of Slavery and Beyond

Internationally recognized storyteller, Jan Blake shares two stories – an Ethiopian tale entitled “Fire on the Mountain” followed by her interpretation of a short story by Charles Chesnutt entitled “Mary and Moses.” These stories share insights into the wisdom and strength of America’s post-slavery communities and the futures they faced. Daniel Black, Professor of African American Studies at Clark University, Atlanta, and a novelist, interviews Blake about how she weaves the African American experience into the body of her work largely focused upon the Diaspora. - <https://youtu.be/lzRVaY11514>

Community Soundstage – A Conversation with Amythyst Kiah

Amythyst Kiah, whose rock inflected country compositions redefine the limits of roots music to represent the influence of black musicians, will perform three acoustic numbers, including her breakout hit “Black Myself”. In an interview with Dwandalyn Reece, Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs, Kiah will discuss her highly anticipated album, *Wary + Strange* and her belief that music helps her listeners recognize the intersection of historic and contemporary social justice challenges - <https://nmaahc.si.edu/event/juneteenth-celebration-resilience-community-soundstage-conversation-amythyst-kiah>

Genealogy & Records of Intrigue

Using a case of "Reverse Genealogy" the family history of an enslaved spinner & weaver will be traced from the era of the American Revolution to the turn of the century. Based on a Freedman's Bank record Center staff will follow the historical footpath of a woman who lost children during slavery and the Civil War, surviving to secure an account with the Freedman's Bank. This presentation will demonstrate how one critical record links to a host of documents leading to an intriguing emancipation story. - <https://nmaahc.si.edu/event/juneteenth-celebration-resilience-genealogy-records-intrigue?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D153443900>

Black Smoke – African Americans & The United States of Barbecue

Adrian Miller, food writer, James Beard Award winner, attorney, and certified barbecue judge joins Kevin Young, NMAAHC director and member of the Southern Food Alliance in a conversation about Miller’s book *Black Smoke*. The two will discuss the perseverance, culinary innovation, and entrepreneurship of African Americans whose faces and stories have been marginalized from the story of this American cuisine. - <https://nmaahc.si.edu/event/juneteenth-celebration-resilience-black-smoke-african-americans-and-united-states-barbecue?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D153443869>

Listen to Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III speak on the Emancipation Proclamation

Lonnie G. Bunch III is the 14th secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and first African American to serve as head of the Smithsonian - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jJWPJonydc>

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ALLYSHIP & SUPPORTING THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Small businesses and entrepreneurs have been longtime wealth builders for generations. By supporting more Black-owned companies, you can help create more opportunities for meaningful savings, property ownership, credit building, and generational wealth for black communities

Support helps to build communities, create job opportunities, closes racial wealth gap and empowers the local community. Find ways you can support your Black-owned businesses in your region on a local level using the below links:

NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES

CHICAGO

DETROIT

WASHINGTON, DC

PHILADELPHIA

BOSTON

ATLANTA

TWIN CITIES

DALLAS

HOUSTON

Check out the products and services featured in NBC's 2021 Black Owned business guide - <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/black-owned-business-guide-n1258948>

Additional Resources

As we pursue social justice to create positive change, it needs to begin at home. Use this link to find value resources and video on how to talk to your children about the history of Juneteenth - <https://blog.outschool.com/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-the-history-of-juneteenth/>