

# — IN A — PERFECT WORLD

## Celebrating and Learning About Juneteenth

“Juneteenth” commemorates the date of June 19, 1865 when many of the last enslaved African-Americans learned from Union soldiers that they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, or Independence Day.

### Juneteenth Stories

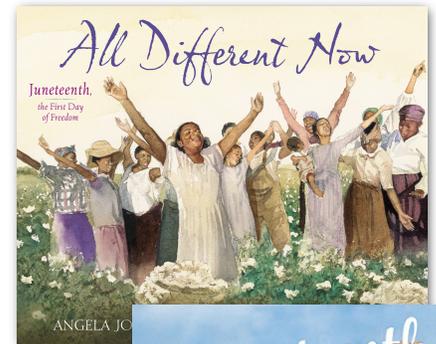
Juneteenth is a celebration of the freedom, resilience, and strength of African Americans in the United States. Here are some resources to help you and your child understand the significance of Juneteenth in U.S. history.

#### All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom

By Angela Johnson

Through the eyes of one little girl, hear the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the slaves in the South. This stunning picture book includes notes from the author and illustrator, a timeline of important dates, and a glossary of relevant terms.

**Watch the Storytime video:** [All Different Now](#)

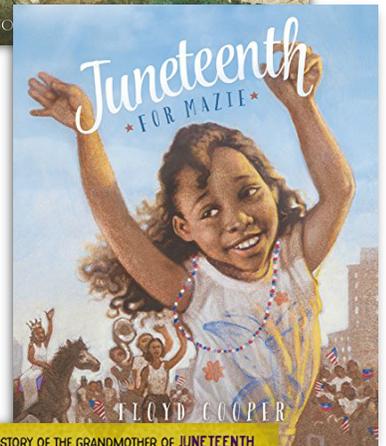


#### Juneteenth for Mazie

By Floyd Cooper

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty. She is ready to celebrate freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history – the day her ancestors were no longer slaves. Mazie remembers the struggles and the triumph, as she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth.

**Watch the Storytime video:** [Juneteenth for Mazie](#)

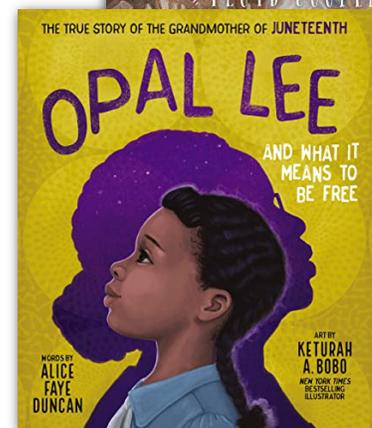


#### Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth

By Alice Faye Duncan

Black activist Opal Lee had a vision of Juneteenth as a holiday for everyone. This true story celebrates Black joy and inspires children to see their dreams blossom. Growing up in Texas, Opal knew the history of Juneteenth, but she soon discovered that many Americans had never heard of the holiday. Join Opal on her historic journey to recognize and celebrate “freedom for all.”

**Watch the Storytime video:** [Opal Lee and What it means to be Free](#)



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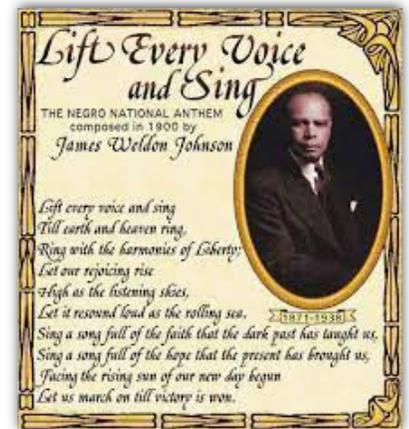
## Music

Music has played an important role in the expression of hope, strength, and stories in African American history. Here are some musical pieces that express the stories of African Americans in the United States.

### **"The Black National Anthem," (Lift Every Voice and Sing)** by James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson

Often referred to as "The Black National Anthem," Lift Every Voice and Sing was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954), composed the music for the lyrics. A choir of 500 school children at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

**Listen and learn lyrics and history:** [NAACP, Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)



### **Beyoncé, Blue Ivy, SAINT JHN, WizKid - BROWN SKIN GIRL (Official Video)**

"It was so important to me in 'Brown Skin Girl' that we represented all different shades of brown," Beyoncé said. "We wanted every character to be shot in a regal light. It was important that we are all in this together and we all are celebrating each other."

**Watch the official video:** [Beyoncé, Brown Skin Girl](#)

### **Stand By Me**

By Ben E. King

Released in 1961, this song was inspired by the spiritual hymn "Lord Stand By Me". It has since been recorded into more than 400 other versions. It was ranked 122nd out of Rolling Stones "500 Greatest Songs of All Time".

**Listen here:** [Stand by Me by Ben E. King](#)

## Arts & Crafts

Art tells the stories of those who create it. Art has the power to change opinions, convey emotions and share experiences across space and time. Here is a fun activity for you and your child to make art that tells the story of Juneteenth.

### **The Colors of Juneteenth**

To celebrate and honor Juneteenth, many in the Black community have adopted the Pan-African flag. The colors represent the blood, soil and prosperity of Africa and its people.

**Activity for kids:** [Easy Cotton Ball Juneteenth Flag Painting for Kids](#)

