



WATCH & LEARN: HOW WE LIVE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: COMMEMORATION CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH (3:36 min) VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v22695)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting
Off

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of African-Americans who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it is now an annual Federal Holiday on June 19th throughout the country.

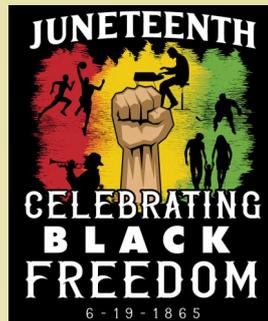
- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with the American Civil War (1861-1865) that led to the end of the institution of slavery in the US?
- ◊ Have you ever heard of "Juneteenth", a holiday commemorating an important event just after the end of the war?
- ◊ What are some of the urgent issues facing Black Americans today? What policies and practices might help resolve some of these problems?

Video Script:

Henry McGee, Senior Lecturer and MBA 1979 Harvard Business School: Although Abraham Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation** became effective on January 1, 1863, Texas slaveholders deliberately **withheld** the information from the enslaved people on their ranches and **plantations**.



Caleb Bradford MPP/MBA 2021 Harvard Business School: Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates when the last enslaved African-Americans were informed of their freedom and the fact that the Civil War had ended. This took place on June 19th, 1865 in Galveston, Texas.

McGee: The news **ignited** celebrations among the quarter-million **formerly** enslaved Americans in Texas, but the fact that the news took so long to get to them **underscored** the resistance to change and the battle for economic justice and social equality continues to this very day.

Bradford: For the majority of my life, I've had Juneteenths where it's purely been **unadulterated, unbridled** celebration. And then there was last year, Juneteenth 2020, where I felt more **aggrieved**, more **pensive** as I, along with the rest of the Black community, was once again **disabused** of this illusion that the country and, in particular, its justice system was designed to **treat** us fairly, to treat us as human beings when it just wasn't.

In the **wake** of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, among way too many others, **reckoning** around systemic racism was brought to the national conscience and Juneteenth was then **catapulted front and center**.

My experience has been that every day I confront a world where my body is **threatened**, my security is not guaranteed even by those who my taxes pay to provide that security.

Vocabulary:

- **Emancipation Proclamation** - declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."
- **withhold** - refuse to give (something that is due to or is desired by another)
- **plantation** - an estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are grown
- **ignite** - arouse or inflame (an emotion or situation)
- **formerly** - previously but no longer
- **underscore** - emphasize
- **unadulterated; unbridled** uncontrolled; unconstrained
- **aggrieved** - feeling resentment at having been unfairly treated
- **pensive** - engaged in, involving, or reflecting deep or serious thought
- **disabuse** - persuade (someone) that an idea or belief is mistaken
- **treat** - behave towards or deal with in a certain way
- **wake** - aftermath; consequences
- **reckoning** - the avenging or punishing of past mistakes or misdeeds
- **catapult** - move suddenly or at great speed as though hurled by a catapult
- **front and center** - of the greatest importance; prominent
- **threatened** - cause (someone or something) to be vulnerable or at risk; endanger

Video Script continued on next page...





**WATCH & LEARN: HOW WE LIVE
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: COMMEMORATION
CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH (3:36 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 2 of 2/v22695)**

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

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Video Script continued...

McGee: It's important that we celebrate Juneteenth as a powerful **reminder** of the promise of American democracy and also to recognize the **horrible legacy** of slavery and the impact it still has on all of our lives. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state or ceremonial holiday**.

Importantly, corporate America is increasingly **acknowledging** the importance of celebrating Juneteenth as a way of both focusing on the **struggles** of their Black employees and practicing **allyship**. It's key that corporations make the celebration of Juneteenth an important part of their diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

Bradford: I **wholeheartedly** believe and know that we can achieve a more just society, establish more **ethical** business practices, build more unity, celebrate diversity, and share prosperity. Better is possible.

McGee: Juneteenth has a special significance for my family. My grandfather Henry W. McGee Sr. was born in Hillsboro, a small town in Texas, in 1910. His father, William McGee, was born in 1865, the year that enslaved Texans learned that they were free.

Bradford: I feel that one of the important gifts of Juneteenth for the nation is a moment to **reflect**, a moment to evaluate, have **candid** conversation, and, I think, ask yourself, is my public **rhetoric** in **lockstep** with my private action? If your public rhetoric and private action aren't in lockstep, Juneteenth is an opportunity to **rectify** that.

McGee: I urge all Americans to join together to celebrate this special day and **rededicate** themselves to making American society just and fair for all.

**On July 17th, 2021 President Joseph R. Biden signed a declaration making Juneteenth a national holiday for every American in perpetuity from this day forward. Vice President Kamala Harris, the first female and Black vice president, said designating a federal holiday "makes an important statement." "These are days when we as a nation have decided to stop and take stock, and often to acknowledge our history," Harris said, urging people to be clear-eyed about the realities of slavery and the long fight for freedom.

Vocabulary continued...

- **reminder** - a thing that causes someone to remember something
- **horrible legacy** - something terrible left or handed down by a predecessor
- **acknowledging** - accept or admit the existence or truth of; recognize the importance or quality of
- **struggle** - a determined effort under difficulties
- **allyship** - the state of a person or organization that cooperates with or helps another in a particular activity
- **wholeheartedly** - with complete sincerity and commitment
- **ethical** - morally good or correct
- **reflect** - think deeply or carefully about
- **candid** - truthful and straightforward; frank
- **rhetoric** - language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect, but which is often regarded as lacking in sincerity or meaningful content
- **lockstep** - close adherence to and emulation of another's actions
- **rectify** - put right; correct
- **rededicate** - again devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose; dedicate again



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Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.