

Days That Matter

Read how Texas celebrations began and why they are remembered.

4.14.D “describe the origins and significance of state celebrations such as Texas Independence Day and Juneteenth.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts that tell how or when each celebration began. Circle facts that tell why each day matters.

Two Texas Celebrations

- ① Texas Independence Day is observed on March 2. It remembers March 2, 1836, when delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. The document announced that Texas would no longer be part of Mexico. The day is significant because it marks the beginning of the Republic of Texas, an important step in Texas history before Texas joined the United States.
- ② Juneteenth is observed on June 19. It began in Galveston on June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3. The order told people that enslaved people in Texas were free. Although the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued in 1863, news and enforcement had not reached many Texans. Juneteenth is significant because it honors freedom and the end of slavery in Texas.
- ③ People mark these celebrations in different ways. Communities may hold parades, music programs, museum visits, speeches, family gatherings, or lessons about history. These actions do more than create a day off. They help people remember the events that began each celebration and think about why those events still matter. Texas recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday in 1979, and it later became a federal holiday in 2021.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Texas Independence Day begin? Include the date and the action the delegates took.

2 How did Juneteenth begin? Include the place, date, and announcement.

3 Why is Texas Independence Day significant to Texas history?

4 Why is Juneteenth significant? Use the delay after the Emancipation Proclamation and General Order No. 3 in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a community remembrance day for an important event, real or imagined. In exactly 3 sentences, describe the event that began the day, tell when it happens, and explain why the community should observe it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts that tell how or when each celebration began. Circle facts that tell why each day matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Texas Independence Day begin? Include the date and the action the delegates took.	On March 2, 1836, delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.
2	How did Juneteenth begin? Include the place, date, and announcement.	Juneteenth began in Galveston on June 19, 1865, when General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3, which told people that enslaved people in Texas were free.
3	Why is Texas Independence Day significant to Texas history?	It marks the beginning of the Republic of Texas, before Texas joined the United States.
4	Why is Juneteenth significant? Use the delay after the Emancipation Proclamation and General Order No. 3 in your answer.	It honors freedom and the end of slavery in Texas. Many Texans had not received news or enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation until General Order No. 3 was announced.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

River Care Day is held on April 8, the date students first cleaned litter from the town river. It began after the cleanup showed that neighbors could protect a shared place. The day matters because it reminds people to care for water and work together.

Accept answers that accurately identify each celebration's origin and explain its historical importance. For the open response, accept any clear three-sentence idea that includes an origin, a date, and significance.