



Juneteenth

The end of slavery in America is celebrated today during the Juneteenth holiday, also known as Freedom Day. The name comes from the melding of June and Nineteenth, or June 19th. Juneteenth emphasizes education and achievement.



Juneteenth History Share the history of Juneteenth with your staff and residents [Juneteenth History](#)

Juneteenth Gathering A typical Juneteenth gathering includes family, friends and barbeque. Invite guests to eat and enjoy a delicious southern barbeque. Don't forget to include the traditional Juneteenth drink, strawberry soda.



Film Fest Many films depict the Middle Passage and the history of slavery in America. Some of the films are better than others. You might choose to view a film before screening it for your residents. Here are some suggestions; *Amistad*, *Sankofa*, *Roots*, *Glory*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Beloved*, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.





Guest Choir Spiritual and gospel music are an important part of African American heritage. Check your town or local churches to see if there is a gospel choir willing to come and perform for you residents and include them in a sing-a-long.

African Jewelry Teach your residents how to use recycled magazines to make colorful beads for beautiful African jewelry.

[Bead Tutorial](#)



Mancala Mancala is an easy to learn African strategy game. Host a Mancala tournament for residents and their guests. Inexpensive Mancala sets can be purchased or your residents can make their own sets using craft stones and egg cartons. [Rules to Mancala](#)



Read Aloud Check your local library for children's books about Juneteenth. Invite groups of children to come and listen to your residents read the books aloud. Or you could record your residents reading the books. Donate the recordings and copies of the books to local schools and children's centers.



Emancipation Proclamation Find a volunteer to read the text of the Emancipation Proclamation to your residents. Have a round table discussion about how different groups of people might have reacted at that time.



[Emancipation Proclamation](#)

Amazing Grace Everyone has heard the song “Amazing Grace” written by John Newton, but how many know the story? Share the music and story with your residents. [“Amazing Grace” story](#)



Biographies Juneteenth celebrates the achievements and advancements in education of African Americans. Learn more about the lives of these incredible men and women. Partner with a local school. Ask the students to make posters illustrating the biographies of various people. If possible, have the children come and speak about their poster. Use the posters to decorate your community and promote the celebration of Juneteenth. [Famous African Americans](#)

Freedom Quilts In their flight to freedom, African-American slaves used an ingenious communication method called "The Quilt System." When an escape was planned, a quilt would be stitched with a "quilt code" and hung on the clothesline each day to communicate crucial hidden messages. Show your residents some of the various quilt codes. Use felt or other fabric to create beautiful quilts. [Quilt Codes](#)

Book Club: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Born into a family of slaves, Frederick Douglass educated himself through sheer determination. His unconquered will to triumph over his circumstances makes this one of America's best and most unlikely success stories. Form a book club and share his inspirational story with your residents.

Share Your Culture Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. Give your residents a chance to share their culture with each other. They can tell a story, plan a meal, or share pictures.