

The 2022 Black History Month Fact Booklet

42 Black history facts
and achievements from
2021 and 2022

**Juneteenth * Famous Firsts *
In memoriam * Pop Culture**

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What's Juneteenth?



Juneteenth is the holiday that commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free.

What is the U.S. state where Juneteenth originated?

Juneteenth originated in Texas. On Jun. 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger informed a reluctant community in Galveston, Texas, that President Abraham Lincoln had freed enslaved people in rebel states two and a half years earlier. He pressed locals to comply with the directive. Texas was the last Confederate state to have the emancipation proclamation announced. In 2021 Juneteenth became a Federal Holiday in the U.S.

What does the star in the Juneteenth flag represent?

The star in the middle of the Juneteenth flag represents the "Lone Star State" of Texas, where formerly enslaved people first celebrated Juneteenth. The colors on the flag are the same as the U.S. flag to show that formerly enslaved people and their descendants are free Americans. The outline surrounding the star represents a new beginning for all.

How many U.S. states recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday?

President Joe Biden signed legislation Thursday, Jun. 17, 2021, establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery, following a bipartisan Congressional bill. The legislation made [Juneteenth the 12th federal holiday](#). Under the new law, [the federal holiday is known as Juneteenth National Independence Day](#) in all 50 states.

What is the traditional menu for Juneteenth?

Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture/Lance Cheung, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Traditional Juneteenth foods and drinks are red and include the Red Velvet cake, red strawberry soda or lemonade, and red hibiscus-tinged punch.

Why is the food on Juneteenth red?

The standard explanation for Juneteenth red menu is that the red symbolized the blood of the millions of enslaved people who had suffered and died. Nowadays, some historians believe red drinks at Juneteenth celebrations have links to the fruits of two native West African plants: the kola nut and hibiscus.

Before it became a federal holiday, how many states recognized Juneteenth?

Until June 2021, 48 states and Washington, D.C., recognize Juneteenth as a state or ceremonial holiday. Hawaii passed legislation on Apr. 27, 2021, to acknowledge the holiday, but it is still waiting for Hawaii's governor to sign the bill into law. South Dakota had not recognized the holiday before it became federal.

What was the first fictional on-screen depiction of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre?

Photo: Alvin C. Krupnick Co., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



HBO's 2019 series *Watchmen* is considered the first time the entertainment industry depicted the 1921 Tulsa Massacre (Three documentaries preceded it).

Tulsa Massacre historic facts

The Tulsa massacre (AKA Black Wall Street massacre) took place on May 31 and Jun. 1, 1921, when many white residents deputized and given official city weapons, attacked Black residents, and burned businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Joe Biden and the Tulsa massacre

U.S. President Joe Biden marked the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa massacre, declaring Tuesday, May 1, 2021, that he had "come to fill the silence" about "one of the nation's darkest – and long-suppressed – moments of racial violence."

Eric Adams is the second elected Black mayor of New York City. Who was the first?



Photo: [The Southern District of New York](#), Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

[David Dinkins](#) was the first African American mayor of New York City, serving in office from 1990 to 1993.

Who's Eric Adams?



On [Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021](#), [Eric Adams was elected as the 110th mayor of New York](#) and [the second Black mayor in the city's history](#). He is a former New York City police captain with a decades-long career in public life.

Screenshot: CNN

What did Amanda Gorman accomplish in 2021?

Screenshot from Biden's Inauguration.



American poet and activist [Amanda Gorman](#) was born in 1998. At 22, she was [the youngest poet ever \(by far\) to read at presidential inaugurations](#) when appearing in the Jan. 20, 2021, [inauguration of President Joe Biden](#). Amanda Gorman's [reading of the inaugural poem](#) made her a household name. Two of her books, which are only available from September 2021, the picture story "The Change We Sing" and a poetry collection featuring "The Hill We Climb," already [occupied the top two spots on Amazon.com](#). She signed an [endorsement deal with IMG Models](#), whose other clients include Kate Moss. She also [appeared at the Feb. 7 Super Bowl event](#) in Tampa, Florida. [Watch Gorman's awe-inspiring inauguration poet.](#)

In how many Super Bowl games were poems read before the coin toss?



Screenshot: Super Bowl LV

Poet [Amanda Gorman](#) performed a poem on Sunday's, Feb. 7, 2021, Super Bowl event, just moments before the coin toss between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Kansas City Chiefs. Gorman [appeared in a taped message that combined her reading with images of the people she dedicated her poem to](#), educator Trimaïne Davis, nurse manager Suzie Dorner, and Marine veteran James Martin.

What's "New Day's Lyric"?



Screenshot: Amanda Gorman on Instagram

Amanda Gorman [posted "New Day's Lyric" with an accompanying video on Instagram on Dec. 29, 2021](#), to mark the end of 2021. Her bestselling collection "Call Us What We Carry" came out in early Dec. 2021. ["New Day's Lyric" is a five-stanza, 48-line resolution with themes of struggle and healing.](#)