

Juneteenth Learning Resources - Elementary

Grade	Reading/Listening Resources	Learning Activity
Kindergarten	Book: <i>Juneteenth for Mazie</i> , by Floyd Cooper www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxms8MtuisY Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E	Read or view <i>Juneteenth for Mazie</i> . Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the country. Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video
1 st grade	Book: <i>Juneteenth for Mazie</i> by Floyd Cooper www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxms8MtuisY Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E	Read or view <i>Juneteenth for Mazie</i> . Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the country. Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video
2 nd grade	Book: <i>Henry's Freedom Box</i> , Ellen Levine www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvSBEBI483U Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E	Read or show the You Tube video of <i>Henry's Freedom Box</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:42 P. 7-8 On this page Henry notices a bird soar high above the trees, and the leaves swirl in the wind. Why do you think the author uses a bird and a leaf as a symbol for freedom? • 3:55 P. 21-22 What is Henry feeling? How do you know? • 5:10 P. 27-28 Why did Henry hurt himself? • At the end of the book the author says, "At last Henry had a birthday." How do you think Henry celebrated his first day of freedom? How would you celebrate? Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the country. Make a list of how communities celebrate important events. Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video
3 rd grade	Book: <i>Henry's Freedom Box</i> , Ellen Levine www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvSBEBI483U Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E	Read or show the You Tube video of <i>Henry's Freedom Box</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:42 P. 7-8 On this page Henry notices a bird soar high above the trees, and the leaves swirl in the wind. Why do you think the author uses a bird and a leaf as a symbol for freedom? • 3:55 P. 21-22 What is Henry feeling? How do you know? • 5:10 P. 27-28 Why did Henry hurt himself? • At the end of the book the author says, "At last Henry had a birthday." How do you think Henry celebrated his first day of freedom? How would you celebrate? Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the

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		<p>country. Make a list of how communities celebrate important events. How are the celebrations alike and different? Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video</p>
4 th grade	<p>Book Clubs Text Set: The Idea of Home <i>Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt</i>, Deborah Hopkinson</p> <p>Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E</p>	<p>Revisit <i>Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt</i> as an interactive read aloud. Using the suggested prompts from the teaching card, invite students to share their thinking about the book. Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. This is called emancipation. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the country.</p> <p>Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video</p> <p><i>Choose a social studies or art learning activity from the choices below:</i></p> <p>Social Studies Remind students that Clara had dreams of finding her mother and going North. Brainstorm a list of words students think of when describing <i>home</i>. Is home an idea, a place, people? As a class create a paper quilt with key words from the brainstorming list.</p> <p>Art When Clara learns about the underground railroad she decides to make a map out of quilting scraps. Clara had to be creative and clever to solve her problems and reach her goal. What are some other character traits of Clara and other characters in the book that contributed to Clara’s success? Brainstorm a list of qualities. Choose one word to create into an artistic display. Ideas Here: https://kidactivities.net/letter-word-art/</p>
5 th grade	<p>IRA Text Set: Freedom <i>Under the Quilt of the Night</i>, Deborah Hopkinson</p> <p>Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWBlikh8A2E</p>	<p>Revisit the IRA Text Set: Freedom Reread <i>Under the Quilt of the Night</i> Using the “Discuss the Text” prompts from the teaching card, invite students to share their thinking about the book. Tell kids that Juneteenth is the celebration of the day slaves in Texas learned they would be free. This is called emancipation. For many years Juneteenth has been observed in parts of our country. In 2021 it was declared a federal national holiday. This is important because now all kids can learn about Juneteenth and celebrate with people across the country.</p> <p>Optional- In addition to the book show the Informational Video <i>Choose a social studies or art learning activity from the teaching card.</i></p>

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		<p>SOCIAL STUDIES Remind students that the runaways in the book had to cross a river, and tell them that one of the main boundaries between slave and free states was the Ohio River. Have them search online for a map showing Underground Railroad routes from slave to free states circa 1850–1860. [There are many versions.] Have them locate the Ohio River on the map. <i>Where might runaway slaves go after crossing the Ohio? • In what other directions might a runaway go?</i> Using the map(s), facilitate a discussion about the geography of the journey to freedom, noting that because of fugitive slave laws, a runaway had to get all the way to Canada [or Mexico] to find freedom.</p> <p>ART Have the class make a paper quilt to represent the story. First, write the book's section titles [Running, Waiting, Watching, Hiding, Traveling, Singing] on chart paper for students to see. <i>How does each word reflect part of the narrator's experience on her journey to freedom?</i> After talking about it, each student can choose a title and create an illustration for that word. Tape the finished illustrations together to form a large quilt. Display the quilt in the classroom.</p>
6 th grade	<p>Informational Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvqJNXYNWVw</p> <p>Reference Article: Juneteenth Flag Symbols www.cnn.com/2021/06/19/us/juneteenth-flag-meaning-explainer-trnd/index.html</p>	<p>After watching the informational video tell kids that on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was declared a federal holiday under the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. In the video the narrator says that some people compare Juneteenth to the Fourth of July. Both holidays symbolize independence. Lead a class discussion about how the holidays are similar and different. Flags are created to symbolize something. The white checkered flag symbolizes the final lap of a race; a yellow flag on a football field symbolizes a penalty on the play; and a country's flag often symbolizes a country's past, present, and future vision all rolled into one. The flag for Juneteenth was created with multiple symbols each with a significant meaning. Show the CNN article about Juneteenth Flag Symbols. Learn about the meaning behind the design elements.</p> <p><i>Optional Activities:</i></p> <p>Art Connection: Choose a medium (pastels, paint, chalk) to create the Juneteenth flag.</p> <p>Art/Symbolism Connection: Study symbols throughout the art world. Create a flag of your own that symbolizes something meaningful to you. Teacher resource: https://slideplayer.com/slide/15296791/</p>