

Name _____



Freedom's Arrival

Directions: Read the historical description below about Juneteenth. Then, transform it into a free verse poem that expresses hope, freedom, and resilience. Your poem should not rhyme unless you want it to. Focus on emotion, imagery, and rhythm to bring history to life.

In June 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, carrying the news that the Civil War had ended and all enslaved people were free. The announcement came two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had gone largely unenforced in many parts of the South. The moment sparked disbelief, tears, and celebration. Families reunited. Songs rose into the sky. Over time, this day became known as Juneteenth - a day not just to mark freedom's arrival but to honor those who endured and persevered. Today, Juneteenth remains a powerful symbol of strength, unity, and the ongoing pursuit of equality.

Your Task: Rewrite this passage as a **free verse poem** titled *"Echoes of Freedom."* Capture emotions instead of facts - the relief, the hope, the weight of history. Use vivid imagery, short or broken lines, and repetition if it helps your voice shine.

Reflection Prompt: After writing, answer this: *How does turning history into poetry change the way we understand it?*