

Name _____



Echoes Of Freedom

Directions: Read the excerpts below from historical documents related to emancipation and Juneteenth. Then, reflect on each excerpt by writing a few sentences that show your understanding, emotions, or insights about the message.

Excerpt 1: *Emancipation Proclamation (1863)*

"That on the first day of January... all persons held as slaves within any State... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Reflection Prompt: How might this declaration have felt to people who had been waiting for freedom for generations? Write about the emotions, hopes, or fears this announcement might have sparked.

Excerpt 2: *General Order No. 3 (Read in Galveston, Texas, 1865)*

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

Reflection Prompt: This message was read two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Reflect on what it means that freedom reached some people so late. How might that delay have affected trust, justice, or celebration?

Excerpt 3: *Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" (1852)*

"This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn."

Reflection Prompt: What do Douglass's words reveal about the difference between freedom in law and freedom in reality? How might Juneteenth represent the shift from mourning to celebration?

Excerpt 4: *Modern Reflection - Opal Lee (Activist, known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth")*

"None of us are free until we're all free."

Reflection Prompt: How does this quote connect the message of Juneteenth to today's world? What actions can people take now to honor that spirit of shared freedom?