



A Law Is Only as Strong as Its Enforcement

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Juneteenth raises an uncomfortable question: when does a law actually change people's lives? The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, yet in Texas it had almost no effect until federal troops arrived two and a half years later. Some enslavers even moved there because they saw Texas as a safe place to keep slavery going.



2 Even the order that announced freedom had limits. General Order No. 3 promised equal rights, but it also told freed people to stay where they were and work for wages, and it warned them not to gather at army posts. From the start, celebrations were often pushed out of town centers, so Black communities raised money and bought their own land. Within a few decades, new laws in the South took away Black citizens' votes and enforced segregation.

3 When Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, some people welcomed it as long-overdue recognition. Others argued that a day off is only symbolic unless it is matched by real progress in areas such as voting rights, education and wealth. In a sense, the holiday itself repeats the lesson of 1865: words on paper matter, but they need action to become real.

Comprehension

1. What is the main point of the passage?

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| ☐ (A) Juneteenth is the most important holiday in the United States. | ☐ (B) Laws and holidays need real action to change people's lives. |
| ☐ (C) Texas was the last state to have slavery. | ☐ (D) Black communities in Texas bought a lot of land. |

2. Why did some enslavers move to Texas?

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| ☐ (A) They wanted to join the federal troops. | ☐ (B) They wanted to find better land for cotton. |
| ☐ (C) They heard that the war was over there. | ☐ (D) They thought they could keep slavery going there. |

3. According to the passage, what did General Order No. 3 tell freed people to do?

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| ☐ (A) Stay where they were and work for wages | ☐ (B) Go to army posts for help |
| ☐ (C) Leave Texas and move north | ☐ (D) Buy land for their own celebrations |

4. What can we guess from the fact that Black communities bought their own land?

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| ☐ (A) They wanted to start farms. | ☐ (B) The government gave them money. |
| ☐ (C) They were often not welcome to celebrate in town centers. | ☐ (D) Celebrations had become too big for parks. |

5. In paragraph 3, what does long-overdue mean in long-overdue recognition?

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| ☐ (A) Happening for a long time every year | ☐ (B) Coming much later than it should have |
| ☐ (C) Given to people who live long | ☐ (D) Ending after a long time |

6. Why does the writer end the passage by mentioning the lesson of 1865?

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| ☐ (A) To link today's debate about the holiday to what happened in 1865 | ☐ (B) To show that nothing has changed since 1865 |
| ☐ (C) To explain how the first celebration started | ☐ (D) To argue that the holiday should be on a different date |



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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| 1. proclamation | a. to make people obey a law or a rule |
| 2. effect | b. the act of keeping groups of people apart, especially by race |
| 3. troops | c. official acceptance that something is important or deserves respect |
| 4. wages | d. having meaning as a sign, but not making a real change |
| 5. enforce | e. an official public statement from a government or a leader |
| 6. segregation | f. a change that happens because of something |
| 7. recognition | g. soldiers, especially a large group of them |
| 8. symbolic | h. money that a worker gets for doing a job, often paid each week or hour |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, yet in Texas it had almost no effect until federal troops arrived two and a half years later.”

Hint: Use but instead of yet, and change almost no effect to hardly changed anything.

2. “From the start, celebrations were often pushed out of town centers, so Black communities raised money and bought their own land.”

Hint: Start with Because, and use were not allowed or were not welcome.

3. “Others argued that a day off is only symbolic unless it is matched by real progress in areas such as voting rights, education and wealth.”

Hint: Use if there is no instead of unless, and change symbolic to just a sign.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: A national holiday is an effective way to deal with a painful history.

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- A holiday makes millions of people learn about the history every year, even people who never studied it.
- It shows that the whole country, not only one group, accepts the history as its own.
- Juneteenth grew from a Texas event to a national one, so many more families now celebrate and talk about freedom.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- A day off can be only symbolic if there is no real progress in voting rights, education and wealth.
- Some people may enjoy the barbecue and the day off but forget the painful meaning.
- The money and energy for a holiday could go to programs that help people directly.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>