Juneteenth ESL Activity Pack

Vocabulary • Reading • Speaking • Writing

For English Learners: Beginner to Intermediate ESL

About This Activity Pack

This free resource helps English language learners build vocabulary, reading, speaking, and writing skills while learning about Juneteenth and American culture. Each section can be used in class or for self-study, and a teacher answer key is included at the end.

Recommended level: Beginner to Intermediate ESL.

Worksheet Contents

- Part 1: Juneteenth Vocabulary
- Part 2: Reading Practice
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- Part 7: Interesting Juneteenth Facts
- Part 8: Classroom Discussion

Part 1: Juneteenth Vocabulary

Match each word to its meaning. Write the correct letter next to each word.

Vocabulary Words	Definitions
1. Freedom	A. A custom practiced over time
2. Equality	B. The ability to recover from difficulties
3. Heritage	C. A group of people connected by shared interests or location
4. Community	D. Shared beliefs, customs, and traditions
5. Tradition	E. Having the same rights and opportunities
6. Culture	F. The ability to live without oppression
7. Celebration	G. Fair treatment under the law
8. Justice	H. An event that honors something important
9. Resilience	I. History and traditions passed through generations
10. Unity	J. People working together

Part 2: Reading Practice

What Is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19 in the United States. It commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Texas learned they were free. Today, Juneteenth honors freedom, history, and community. Many people celebrate with educational events, family gatherings, music, and cultural activities.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. When is Juneteenth celebrated?
2. What historical event does Juneteenth commemorate?

3. What values does Juneteenth celebrate?
4. Name two activities people often do during Juneteenth celebrations.
5. Why is Juneteenth important?

Part 3: Speaking Practice

Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group.

1. What holidays are important in your country?
2. Why is it important to learn about history?
3. What does freedom mean to you?
4. What traditions are important in your family?
5. How can learning about holidays help you improve your English?

> **Teacher Tip:** Encourage students to answer in complete sentences.

Part 4: Writing Practice

Short Writing Activity

Write 5–10 sentences answering the following question: **What did you learn about Juneteenth?** Try to use at least five vocabulary words from this worksheet.

Vocabulary Bank

Freedom • Equality • Community • Heritage • Tradition • Culture • Justice • Unity

Part 5: True or False

Write TRUE or FALSE.

1. Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19.
2. Juneteenth began in Texas.

3. Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021.
4. Juneteenth celebrates freedom and history.
5. Juneteenth is only celebrated in Texas today.

Part 6: Juneteenth Vocabulary in Context

Complete the sentences using the words below.

Word Bank

Freedom • Community • Culture • Equality • Tradition

1. Juneteenth celebrates _____.
2. Many cities organize _____ events during Juneteenth.
3. Juneteenth is an important part of American _____.
4. Family gatherings are a common Juneteenth _____.
5. Many people reflect on the importance of _____.

Part 7: Interesting Juneteenth Facts

- The name *Juneteenth* combines the words *June* and *nineteenth*.
- Juneteenth began in Texas and is now celebrated throughout the United States.
- Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021.
- The Juneteenth flag symbolizes freedom and new beginnings.
- The color red has historical significance and is often associated with the bloodshed, resilience, and sacrifices of enslaved ancestors.

Part 8: Classroom Discussion

Think about the following statement:

> *"Learning about history helps us understand the present."*

Do you agree or disagree? Why? Write your answer below and discuss it with your classmates.

Answer Key (Teacher Use)

Vocabulary Matching

1 – F	5 – A	9 – B
2 – E	6 – D	10 – I
3 – J	7 – H	
4 – C	8 – G	

Reading Questions

Answers may vary but should reflect the passage.

True or False

1. True	3. True	5. False
2. True	4. True	

Vocabulary in Context

1. Freedom	3. Culture	5. Equality
2. Community	4. Tradition	

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