Bitesized Belonging: What's Juneteenth all about?
Celebrated every June 19th, Juneteenth serves as a significant day of remembrance, reflection, and celebration for many within the US, and especially those who identify as Black and/or African American.

Juneteenth is known as the oldest celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States. First recognized by Texas, it is also known as "Freedom Day", "Juneteenth National Independence Day", and/or "Emancipation Day".

Juneteenth marks the day when U.S. Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger delivered General Order No. 3 to the people of Galveston Texas, in 1865. It read, in part:

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

This proclamation of freedom came two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the middle of the Civil War.

Over the years, Juneteenth has become an important time of self-reflection for many folks. Most recently, it's served as an important reminder of the many systemic issues Black and/or African American people continue to confront.

Ways to celebrate/observe this year:
[How to properly celebrate Juneteenth in the age of commercialization](#)
[10 Things We Want White People to Do to Celebrate Juneteenth](#)
[A beginner's guide to Juneteenth: How can all Americans celebrate?](#)