

JUNETEENTH

Lyrics by Fyütch & Alphabet Rockers

Chorus

Do you know the story of Juneteenth
When the enslaved found out that they were free
Two years after 1863
The Emancipation Proclamation

Verse

Freedom - What does it mean to be free
Are you born with it? Is it God-given?
Or is there a cost to be Free
The Constitution said we were 3/5^{ths} human
How can it be Democracy built on stolen land
Freedom is a right, not a privilege
Freedom from false restriction
Skin color, birthplace
Respect the ways we're all different
Let's take it back bout 100 years
Quick - let me paint this picture
America in a civil war
No Marvel movie, this history!
President Lincoln had a plan to end slavery only in the South
But Black folks when they heard about it
Start spreading that word of mouth
Picked up arms and joined the Union
To fight for their own freedom
The colored troops help win the war
Gave that Proclamation new meaning, yup
You betta believe it!

CHORUS

VERSE 2

Justice - When have we seen it and known it
Who are the ones who have grown it
Took it from notion to showin what's just
Let's talk about soldiers who were free

Risking their lives for people like me
All the kinfolk they may never know
Took a lead that we all could follow
Followin' the call for What? Justice
Bigger than land it was for the enslaved
When you think about this Proclamation
The emancipation is knowing that WE were the brave
200 thousand soldiers organizing
Women and children home strategizing
Paper protests, learned to address
The power of truth and a culture uprising

CHORUS

BRIDGE

Can't stop that joy
Freedom is not individual its collective
Can't stop that joy
Freedom is not individual its collective
R-E-S-P-E-C-T
Freedom is not individual its collective

When you think about Juneteenth
remember how we freed ourselves,
How we stayed prepared.
We will prevail, cuz we tippin scales, closing all the jails and we will not fail!

You believe, You dream, You move You serve.
For those who've passed - for our culture.
No one left behind we can be sure
We stand we rise we on that joy ride.
We stand we rise we on that joy ride.
We stand we rise we on that joy ride.
Ayyyyy!

Final chorus

Now you know the story of Juneteenth
When the last enslaved knew that they were free
We led ourselves to victory
Victory . . . Victory!