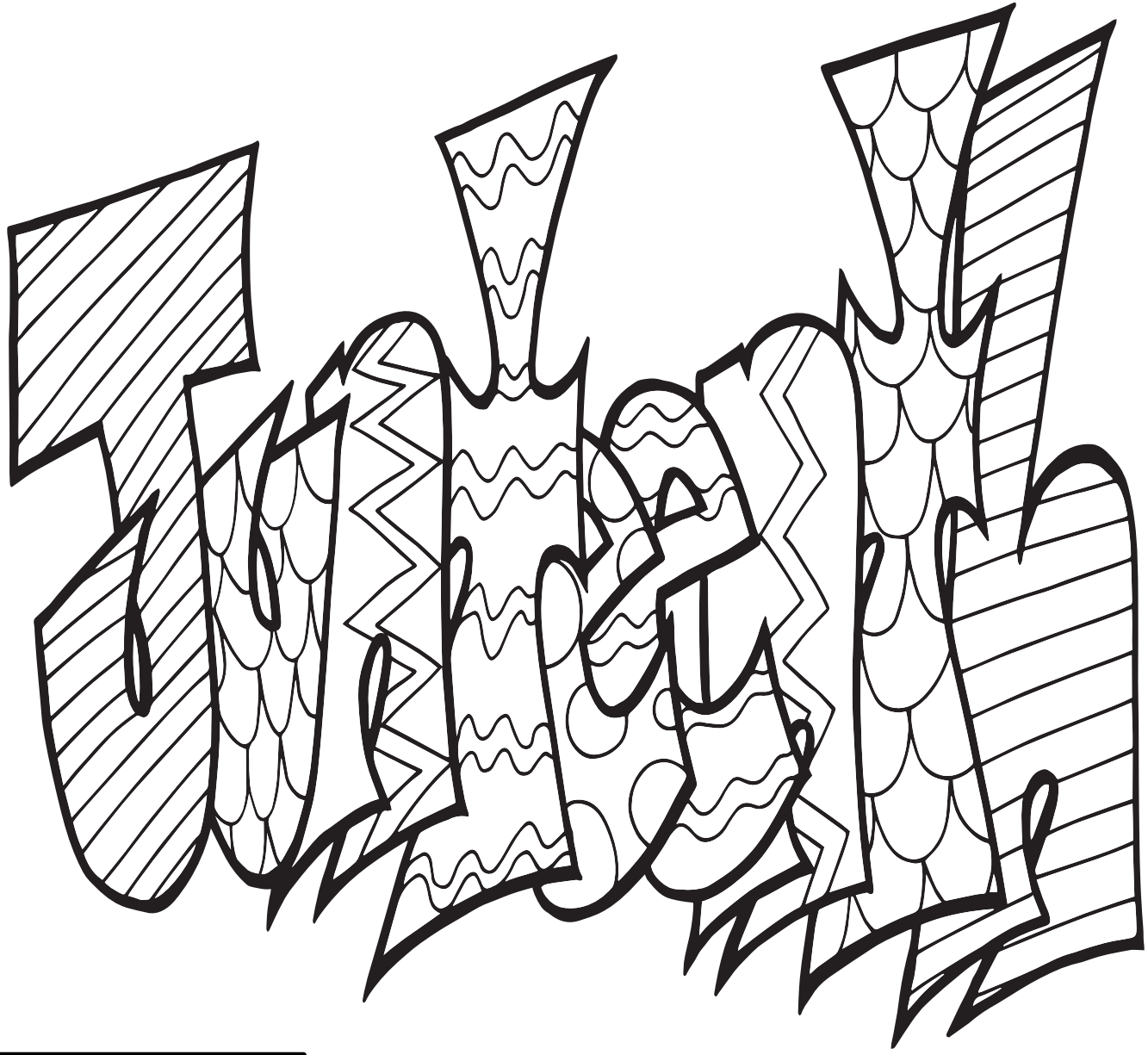
Commemorates the end of slavery in the United states.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, during the American Civil War, declaring more than three million slaves living in the confederate states to be free.

On June 19, 1865 -
OVER 2YEARS LATER -
the news
of the Emancipation Proclimation
reached African Americans
living in Texas. It was not until
Union soldiers arrived in Galveston,
TX on June 19, 1865 that the state's
residents finally learned slavery
had been abolished.



In 1866, June 19th was transformed from a day of unheeded miliary orders into an anual rite, "Juneteenth."

In 1980, Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas, with a number of states following.

Celebrations include recognizing the end of slavery and celebrating the culture and acheivements of African Americans. Celebrations may include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with music, food, and dancing.