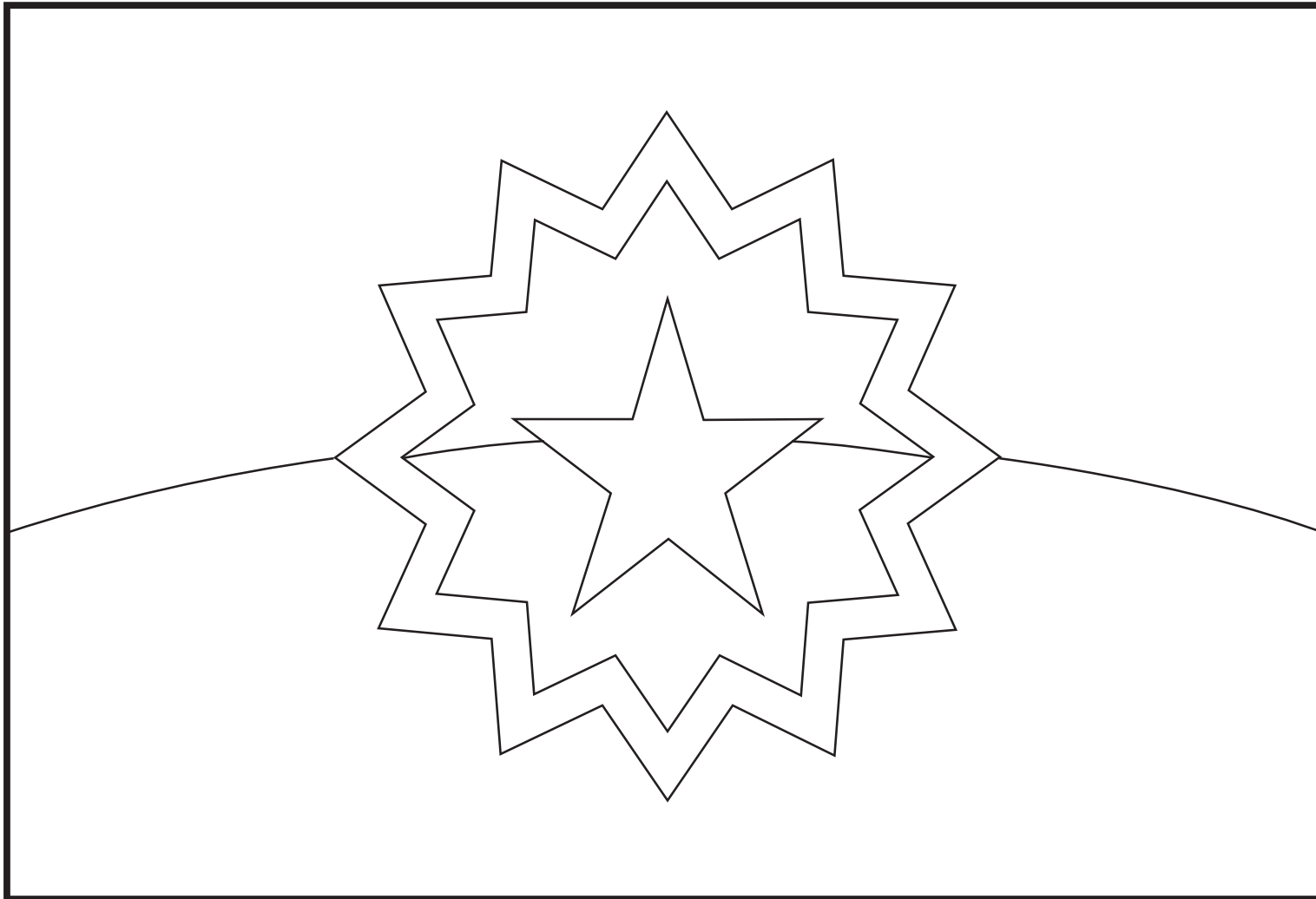# African American Heritage: Juneteenth

JUNETEENTH
Juneteenth commemorates the day that enslaved African Americans in Texas were informed that they were free.

ON JUNE 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston and began to enforce the end of slavery in Texas.

IN 1980, Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas. Juneteenth has been known as Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day.

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The founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation, Ben Haith, created the Juneteenth flag with illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf in 1997. The design depicts a bursting new star on the horizon, which represents a new freedom for a new people. The colors—red, white, and blue— were chosen because the formerly enslaved people and their descendants are all Americans.

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