

Martin Luther King, Jr.

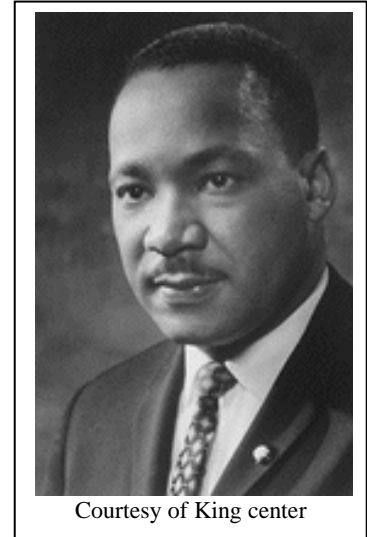
1964

It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it.

Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia and came from a family of pastors. His father and grandfather were pastors of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Martin served there as a pastor.

Martin was very smart in school. He went to **segregated** public schools in Georgia. He went to a **Negro** college in Atlanta. His father and grandfather graduated from this college.

Martin decided to become a minister. He became president of the senior class at **seminary**. He had great skill at leading others. He learned about the teachings of Gandhi. Gandhi and King both believed in non-violence. King helped people to fight unfair laws.



In 1955, Martin led a peaceful march. He was supporting Rosa Parks. Blacks sat in the back of the bus. She sat in the front of a bus. Then Martin led a bus **boycott**. Negro people stopped riding the bus. This boycott went on for 382 days. This was the beginning of the **civil rights movement**. He went to jail for his beliefs. He believed that **discrimination** was wrong.

- Lived 1929-1968
- Civil Rights Leader
- Leader of a bus boycott
- Went to jail
- Believed in non-violence

In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was only 35 years old. He was the youngest man to receive the award. He did not keep the money. He gave it to groups that needed help.

President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. People could not discriminate based on a person's color.

Martin was killed on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. He helped garbage workers on strike. As a nation, we now celebrate Martin's birthday. We remember how hard he worked for everyone.

Student Activities

Talk about this quote from King:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday in the United States?
2. What did Martin Luther King believe?
3. Give examples of Martin Luther King’s teachings about equality at your school?
4. Have you ever stood up for someone who was being treated unfairly? What did you do?
5. Do you think our country can ever rise to Martin Luther King’s wish that we treat all people equally? Give examples of your answer.

Vocabulary

- 1. Discrimination**
- 2. Negro**
- 3. Segregated**
- 4. Seminary**
- 5. Boycott**
- 6. Civil Rights Movement**

Student Activities

1. Class Pledge
As a class, make a circle. Hold hands and say the Martin Luther King pledge:

Loving, Not Hating
Showing understanding, not anger
Making Peace, not war
We are all one.

2. Writing Activity

Make a promise statement on paper as a class or individually about what you will do to promote rights of all students.

Example:

I live by Martin Luther King's beliefs that all people should be treated as equals. Therefore, I promise to:

Art

Trace your hand on heavy paper. Cut out the hand and put one promise on each finger.

Do collages from magazines of people solving conflicts or acting peacefully.

Conflict Resolution and Role Play:

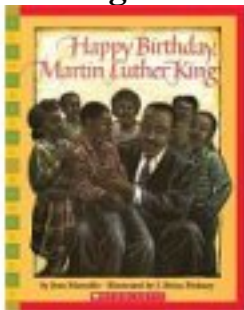
Talk about ways to deal with conflict:

Passive, aggressive, assertive: Your teacher may practice the assertive way with a student partner, then let students practice in pairs or come up in front of the class.

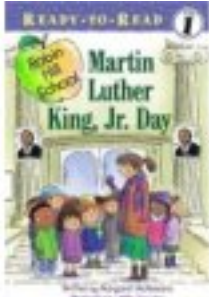
Situations to role play.

A friend was supposed to come over to play and they didn't show up.
Someone cuts in front of you in line.
You feel left out on the playground.

Read Together



Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King by Jean Marzallo and J. Pinkney



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by Margaret McNamara and Mike Gordon



My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr. by Coretta Scott King

Technology Option:

Listen to the [I Have A Dream Speech](#). Discuss two ideas from the speech. How do you think you would have felt being there when this speech was given? Do you think people changed how they lived after this speech?

Resources

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/> Speeches, biography, educational activities from the King Center in Atlanta

<http://www.kingian.net/> Site for teens on non-violence and the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/martin_luther_king_jr.html
Quotes from King Speeches

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/ Nobel site for Peace Laureates

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