

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Black man and was born in the USA on January 15th 1929. As a child, he enjoyed playing sports, playing the piano and going to school. Sadly, life was often hard. Some people treated him differently because of the colour of his skin.

Times were hard for Black people living in the USA. There were separate areas for Black people and White people on public transport, parks, restaurants and even in toilets.



Did You Know...?

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black woman, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a White man.

Black children were not allowed to go to school with white children. They had to go to separate schools that didn't have many resources to help with their learning.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Christian who wanted to make sure that all Americans had the same rights regardless of their race. He became a civil rights activist. This means that he campaigned for improved rights for people.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. led a huge march in Washington DC, the US capital. In front of the enormous crowd, Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. Here is a short piece of that speech:



"I have a dream that one day little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as brothers and sisters."

It is because of Martin Luther King Jr., and others like him, that the law was changed to state that everyone in America had the same rights regardless of their skin colour. The law was also changed so that everyone could vote.

Although there is still a long way to go for racial equality in America, the work of Martin Luther King Jr. was a big step in the right direction.

In 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end racial prejudice in the United States.

Every January, there is an American national holiday to celebrate his birthday.

Did You Know...?

Martin Luther King Jr. was only 39 years old when he was killed. Many thousands of people went to his funeral.

Questions

1. When was Martin Luther King Jr. born? Tick **one**.

- 1999
- 2019
- 1929
- 1992

2. Why was Rosa Parks arrested in 1955?

3. Match up the sentences.

Martin Luther King Jr. fought for

Black and
White people.

There were separate areas for

because of the colour of his skin.

Some people treated
him differently

equal rights for all.

4. Where did Martin Luther King Jr. lead a huge march in 1963? Tick **one**.

- New York
- Washington DC
- Chicago
- Los Angeles

5. Why was Martin Luther King Jr. awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964?

6. When is the American holiday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr? Tick **one**.

- every January
- every February
- every March
- every April

Questions

7. What do you think the meaning behind Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech is?

Answers

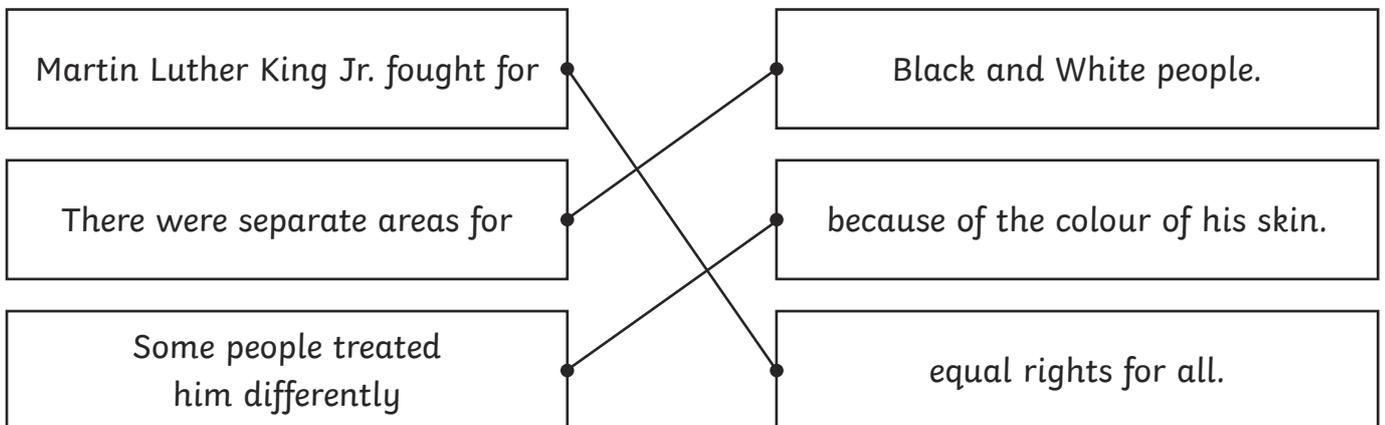
1. When was Martin Luther King Jr. born? Tick **one**.

- 1999
 2019
 1929
 1992

2. Why was Rosa Parks arrested in 1955?

Rosa Parks was arrested because she refused to give up her seat on a bus for a White man.

3. Match up the sentences.



4. Where did Martin Luther King Jr. lead a huge march in 1963? Tick **one**.

- New York
 Washington DC
 Chicago
 Los Angeles

5. Why was Martin Luther King Jr. awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964?

Martin Luther King Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end racial prejudice in the United States.

6. When is the American holiday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr? Tick **one**.

- every January**
 every February
 every March
 every April

Answers

7. What do you think the meaning behind Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech is?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech means that he is hoping for a future where children are friends and love each other like family, no matter what the colour of their skin is.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Black man and was born in the USA on January 15th 1929. As a child, he enjoyed playing sports, playing the piano and going to school. Sadly, life was often difficult. Some people treated him differently based on the colour of his skin.

At the time, there were separate areas for Black and White people on public transport, in parks, restaurants and even public toilets. Furthermore, up until the 1960s, African- Americans in some states of the US could not vote in elections.

Black children were not permitted to go to school with white children. They had to go to separate schools that didn't have many resources to help with their learning.

Martin Luther King Jr. was determined to make sure that all Americans had the same rights regardless of their race so he became a civil rights activist. This means that he campaigned for improved rights for people.



The 1955 Bus Boycott

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black woman, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a White man. Martin Luther King Jr. called on Black Americans to protest by not travelling on buses in that area. This protest lasted for 385 days and ended with a United States court ruling that ended separate areas for Black and White people on all Montgomery public buses.

Martin Luther King Jr. went on to organise other non-violent demonstrations against the unfair treatment of African-Americans. In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. led a huge march in Washington DC, the US capital. Here, in front of a crowd of 250,000 people, King made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. Here are some short extracts:



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Did You Know...?

On October 14th 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violence.

As a result of Martin Luther King Jr.'s actions and words, and others like him, the US government brought in laws to ensure equal rights for all US citizens and to give everybody the chance to vote.

Although there is still a long way to go for racial equality in America, the work of Martin Luther King Jr. was a big step in the right direction.

Martin Luther King Jr. was only 39 years old when he was killed. The funeral was attended by around 300,000 people. Every January, there is an American national holiday to celebrate his birthday.

Questions

1. Give two examples of places where Black and White people could not mix.

1. _____
2. _____

2. Where did Martin Luther King Jr. make his famous 1963 speech? Tick **one**.

- New York City
- Chicago
- Washington DC
- Los Angeles

3. How many people saw Martin Luther King Jr. give his 'I Have a Dream' speech? Tick **one**.

- 250
- 250,000
- 25
- 2500

4. Match up the sentences.

Rosa Parks	called on Black people to not travel on buses in that area.
Martin Luther King Jr.	lasted for 385 days.
The protest	a United States court ruled that there would be no separate areas on Montgomery public buses.
In the end,	was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a White man.

5. Complete the sentence by filling in the missing words.

King went on to organise other _____ against the unfair treatment of Black people.

Questions

6. As a result of King's actions and words, and others like him, what did the US government do?

7. How old was King when he died? Tick **one**.

- 29
- 39
- 49
- 59

8. Why do you think Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was so well-attended?

Answers

- Give two examples of places where Black and White people could not mix.
Accept any two of the following: public transport; parks; restaurants; public toilets.
- Where did Martin Luther King Jr. make his famous 1963 speech? Tick **one**.
 - New York City
 - Chicago
 - Washington DC**
 - Los Angeles
- How many people saw Martin Luther King Jr. give his 'I Have a Dream' speech? Tick **one**.
 - 250
 - 250,000**
 - 25
 - 2500
- Match up the sentences.

Rosa Parks	called on Black people to not travel on buses in that area.
Martin Luther King Jr.	lasted for 385 days.
The protest	a United States court ruled that there would be no separate areas on Montgomery public buses.
In the end,	was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a White man.

- Complete the sentence by filling in the missing words.
King went on to organise other **non-violent demonstrations** against the unfair treatment of Black people.

Answers

6. As a result of King's actions and words, and others like him, what did the US government do?

As a result of King's actions and words, and others like him, the US government brought in laws to ensure equal rights for all US citizens and to give everybody the chance to vote.

7. How old was King when he died? Tick **one**.

29

39

49

59

8. Why do you think Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was so well-attended?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think his funeral was so well-attended because his words and actions had a positive effect on people's lives and they wanted to pay their respects for what he had done to help them; I think his funeral was so well-attended because he had inspired so many people to stand up for what they believe in.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was the leader of the Black civil rights movement. He spoke out against laws which kept Black and White people separate and led marches demanding fair laws for all people. Martin Luther King Jr. was determined to ensure that all Americans had the same rights regardless of their race.

He was born on January 15th 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. His father was a pastor and his mother had been a teacher. Martin Luther King Jr. loved to play with his friends but, as his friends got older, two of them stopped playing with him. The father of one of the boys didn't like his son playing with him because he was Black. Martin Luther King Jr. was deeply hurt and upset and couldn't understand why the colour of his skin would make any difference.

For Black people living in the USA, life was challenging. There were separate areas for Black and White people on public transport, in parks, restaurants and even in public toilets. This was called segregation. Up until the 1960s, Black people in some states of the US could not vote in elections.

In some states, Black children had to go to separate schools from their White peers. These schools were often poorly funded and equipped.

The 1955 Bus Boycott

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black woman, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a White man in the city where Martin Luther King Jr. preached. Martin Luther King Jr. called on Black people to protest by not travelling on buses in that area. The boycott lasted for 385 days and the



situation became so tense that Martin Luther King Jr.'s house was bombed. Other people were furious and wanted to fight back with violence but Martin Luther King Jr. said that things needed to be solved peacefully and talked about the importance of White and Black people getting along. The boycott ended with a United States court ruling that ended racial segregation on all Montgomery public buses.

Martin Luther King Jr. went on to organise other non-violent demonstrations against the unfair treatment of Black people. In 1963, he led a huge march on Washington DC, the US capital. The march on Washington involved 250,000 people travelling to the Lincoln Memorial (Abraham Lincoln was the president who put an end to slavery in America). Here, in front of the enormous crowd, King made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. Here are some short extracts:



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Did You Know...?

In 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end racial prejudice in the United States.

Rules in America began to change. The US Government brought in laws to ensure equal rights for all US citizens and to give everybody the chance to vote.

Although there is still a long way to go for racial equality in America, the work of Martin Luther King Jr. was a big step in the right direction.

Tragically, on 4th April 1968, King was shot and killed outside his motel room. His funeral was attended by 300,000 mourners.

In 1983, US President Ronald Reagan declared that the third Monday in January each year would be a holiday to remember King's achievements and the ideas of living in a world which was fair for everyone, no matter what the colour of their skin.

Questions

1. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

2. **Find** and **copy one** word which means the same as **separation based on race**.

3. Give three examples of how Black people were treated differently from White people.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. Why do you think that Martin Luther King Jr. believed it best to carry out non-violent demonstrations?

5. Which definition best fits the word **boycott**? Tick **one**.

to attend a funeral

to stop using a service in protest

to be a president

to make a court ruling

6. Where did the march in Washington DC travel to? Tick **one**.

the White House

the Lincoln Memorial

the Empire State Building

the US government

7. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was well-attended. Why do you think this was the case?

Questions

8. Explain Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote in your own words.

“I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.”

Answers

1. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. born?
Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.
2. **Find and copy one** word which means the same as **separation based on race**.
segregation
3. Give three examples of how Black people were treated differently from White people.
Accept any three of the following: There were separate areas for African-Americans and white people on public transport, parks, restaurants and in public toilets; Up until the 1960s, African-Americans in some states of the US could not vote in elections; African-Americans were not allowed to go to school with white children; African-Americans had to give up their seats for white people on public transport.
4. Why do you think that Martin Luther King Jr. believed it best to carry out non-violent demonstrations?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Martin Luther King Jr. believed that they wouldn't be listened to if they protested with violence. He wanted to show how the African-American community was willing to get along with the white community.
5. Which definition best fits the word **boycott**? Tick **one**.
 - to attend a funeral
to stop using a service in protest
 - to be a president
 - to make a court ruling
6. Where did the march in Washington DC travel to? Tick **one**.
 - the White House
the Lincoln Memorial
 - the Empire State Building
 - the US government
7. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was well-attended. Why do you think this was the case?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think his funeral was well-attended because his words and actions had a positive effect on people's lives and they wanted to pay their respects for what he had done to help them; I think his funeral was so well-attended because he had inspired so many people to stand up for what they believe in.

Answers

8. Explain Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote in your own words.

"I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Accept any suitable explanation of the quote, such as: I think that Martin Luther King Jr. is imagining that one day children will be able to play with each other regardless of the colour of their skin; I think that Martin Luther King Jr. is saying that he would like for children to care for each other as family.