

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



A **SOAR** Activity

Stimulating **O**pportunities **A**cademic **R**igor

A SOAR Unit engages students by captivating their attention with stimulating activities that include multiple academic disciplines. Student progress will **SOAR!**

Included in this lesson are:

- Informational article about Martin Luther King Jr. with photographs
- Test Your Thinking Skills Questions that mimic end of year state tests questions
- Test Your Thinking Answer Key
- Stimulating Opportunity: Students watch the “I Have a Dream” speech (youtube) and write their own speech



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King Day is the third Monday in January each year. Martin Luther King was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the second of three children born to Michael King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Both his father and grandfather were ministers at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Martin Luther King was raised in a loving home. He lived in a prosperous black neighborhood in Atlanta. Both his mother and father were college graduates as was Martin Luther King. In fact Martin started his college education at the age of 15. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta where he was enrolled under a special program that admitted bright high school students that showed signs for future success. After graduating from Morehouse College, Martin Luther King attended Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He then went on to Boston University where he earned his doctorate. It was in Boston where he met Coretta Scott and the two were married in 1953. They had four children.

While pastoring a church in Montgomery, Alabama, Martin Luther King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The arrest of Rosa Parks was the catalyst of the protest. Rosa Parks refused to stand, which led other people to take a stand. She refused to give up her seat on the bus for a white man. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the beginning of the civil rights movement.





Picture of the Rosa Parks bus taken at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Martin Luther King was a gifted orator and was recognized as a skilled speaker. He was an advocate for non-violent protests and acts of civil disobedience. Martin Luther King is known and admired for his leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement. He was the youngest person to win the Noble Peace Prize for his work to eliminate discrimination and segregation. He fought for the equality of all people.



These pictures were taken at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan (2018). They are artifacts from part of a civil rights display. They show examples of segregation and discrimination.



Vocabulary Box

artifacts: item of cultural or historical interest, made by a person

catalyst: a person, thing, or event that starts something

discrimination: the unjust treatment of people based on race, sex, or age

segregation: separating people by race

Test Your Thinking Skills

1. According to the article what was the main event that lead to the civil rights movement ?

- A. black people had to use different drinking fountains
- B. segregation
- C. arrest of Rosa Parks
- D. discrimination

2. Which of the following is NOT true about Martin Luther King?

- A. He endorsed nonviolent civil disobedience
- B. His father was a minister
- C. He was born in the Middle West
- D. He won the Noble Peace Prize

3. Read the sentence below from the passage.

He was the youngest person to win the Noble Peace Prize for his work to eliminate discrimination and segregation.

What does the word eliminate mean in this sentence?

- A. help
- B. decrease
- C. increase
- D. stop

4. The picture of the White Waiting Room and the Colored Waiting Room is an example of which of the following?

- A. prejudice
- B. segregation
- C. discrimination
- D. civil disobedience

5. Read the sentence below from the passage.

Martin Luther King was a gifted orator and was recognized as a skilled speaker.

Which of the following words is a synonym for the word speaker?

A. gifted

B. orator

C. recognized

D. skilled

6. Write 3 things you learned from the article about Martin Luther King. Use complete sentences.



Test Your Thinking Skills Answer Key

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Answers will vary.

Martin Luther King *I Have a Dream*



*"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of
its
creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"*

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous I Have a Dream speech in Washington D.C. Each year on January 16, his birthday, we celebrate Dr. King's legacy. Dr. King bravely stood up to the injustices and inequality that African Americans were facing, and his speech reminds us that it is now our turn to ensure that all are treated equally. Let's celebrate his birthday by writing our own "I Have a Dream" speech!

Below, brainstorm some ideas of ways you want to help make your school, your community, your country and world a better place. What is YOUR dream?

My Ideas to Make the World a Better Place:

Write your own "I Have a Dream" speech on the following page.

Thank You

Thank you so much for downloading our resource!

We hope that you and your students get excited
about learning and SOAR!

-Shelli Abel (Whimsical Writers)

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