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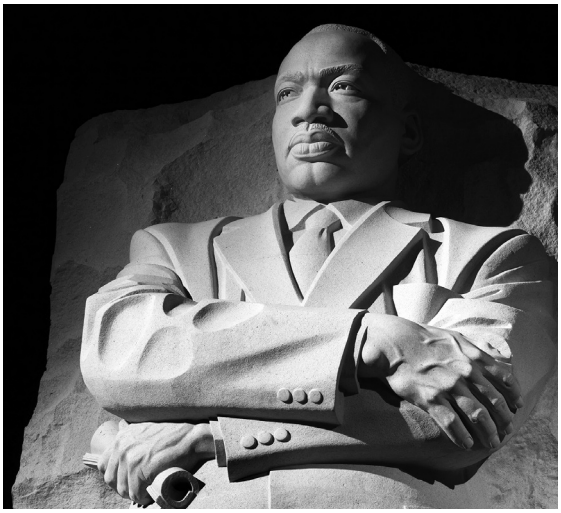

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the most important leaders in United States history. In many cities across the country, there are streets named after him. There is even a federal holiday honoring King. How much do you know about this important figure in U.S. history? Answer these questions to find out!

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Find It!

Use the World Book Advanced search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about Martin Luther King, Jr., it is recommended you start by searching the key words "Martin Luther King, Jr." Choose or write the answer below each question.

1. What was King's birth name?

2. On what date was King born?

3. In what city was King born?

4. What were some of the ways in which African Americans were treated unfairly during King's life?

5. Who was arrested in 1955 for disobeying a state law that said blacks had to give up their seats to white passengers?

6. Which of the following was NOT a piece of legislation that was passed as a result of the work of King and others?

   a. Civil Rights Act of 1964 _____

   b. Equal Rights Amendment_____

   c. Voting Rights Act of 1965_____

***Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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7. For what did King win the Nobel Peace Prize?

8. On what date was King assassinated?

9. In what city was King assassinated?

10. What is the name of the person who was convicted of killing King?

11. When does the United States celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day?

12. King became only the second American whose birthday is observed as a national holiday. Who was the first?

13. In what city is the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial?

True or False

_____ 14. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the son of the Reformation leader Martin Luther.

_____ 15. King skipped two grades of high school.

_____ 16. King entered Morehouse College at age 15.

_____ 17. Dr. King earned a medical degree from Boston University.

_____ 18. Reverend King was a Roman Catholic priest.

_____ 19. King helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

_____ 20. King used the slogan "Black Power" to urge African Americans to fight for racial equality.

_____ 21. King's method of nonviolent protest was inspired by the Indian leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

_____ 22. John F. Kennedy was president when Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

_____ 23. Lyndon B. Johnson was president when Congress approved the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

_____ 24. King supported U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

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See It!

Within the Advanced article "March on Washington," you will find the picture titled "Martin Luther King, Jr., speaks at the 1963 March on Washington." Study the picture to answer the following questions.

25. In what ways does this photo portray Martin Luther King, Jr., as a leader?

26. What famous monument—from where the march began—appears in the background of the photo?

Watch It!

Within the Advanced article "King, Martin Luther, Jr.," you will find the video "Martin Luther King, Jr., receives the Nobel Peace Prize." Watch the video and answer the following questions.

27. True or false: King declined his Nobel Peace Prize out of protest against the inequality faced by African Americans.

28. According to King, how many African Americans at the time were "engaged in a creative battle to end the long night of racial injustice?"

Within the Advanced article "I Have a Dream," you will find the video "Excerpt from the speech 'I Have a Dream' by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Read the Student articles "I Have a Dream" and "March on Washington" and watch the video to answer the following questions.

29. In his speech, King refers to "a great American in whose symbolic shadow we stand today." To whom was he referring?

30. What historic document does King mention in this excerpt?

31. What U.S. national hymn does King quote from when he repeats the refrain, "let freedom ring?"

32. King ends his speech by quoting an old Negro spiritual with the words of hope

"Thank God Almighty, we are "_____ _____ _____!" (3 words)

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Timeline

33. Use the Advanced articles "King, Martin Luther, Jr." and "March on Washington" **to put the events in the correct order** on the timeline below. Include the year or date of each event as indicated.

    a. Year that King won the Nobel Peace Prize
    b. Date that King was assassinated
    c. Year that King organized a boycott of the segregated public bus system in Montgomery, Alabama
    d. Month and year that King led a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to protest against barriers to black voting rights
    e. Year that NAACP awarded King the Spingarn Medal for his civil rights achievements
    f. Date that King was born
    g. Date that King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington
    h. Year that the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial opened in Washington, D.C.
    i. Year that Congress passed the Civil Rights Act
    j. Year that Congress passed the Voting Rights Act

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Extension Activity 1: Letter from Jail

King was arrested and jailed several times while protesting against injustice and discrimination. He wrote a number of letters from jail describing his struggle. Write a 1-2 page letter from the perspective of King while he was in jail, explaining why he allowed himself to be arrested. Include a description of the injustices King was fighting against.

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Extension Activity 2: Be Persuasive

In his "I Have a Dream" speech, King said that he had a vision of a United States that was not divided along racial lines. He hoped one day that people would be judged on their character and not on the color of their skin. Do you believe King's dream has been realized? Give 2-3 reasons why or why not.

Read more about Martin Luther King, Jr., in World Book's eBook collection:

Schuldt, Lori Meek. *Martin Luther King, Jr.: with profiles of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela*. Chicago: World Book, 2013. Biographical Connections. *World eBook*. Web. 19 Oct. 2015. <http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:978-0-7166-1878-2/detail.do>.

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