



RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR
THE SENIOR PRIMARY CLASSROOM

Martin Luther King Jr.

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The Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

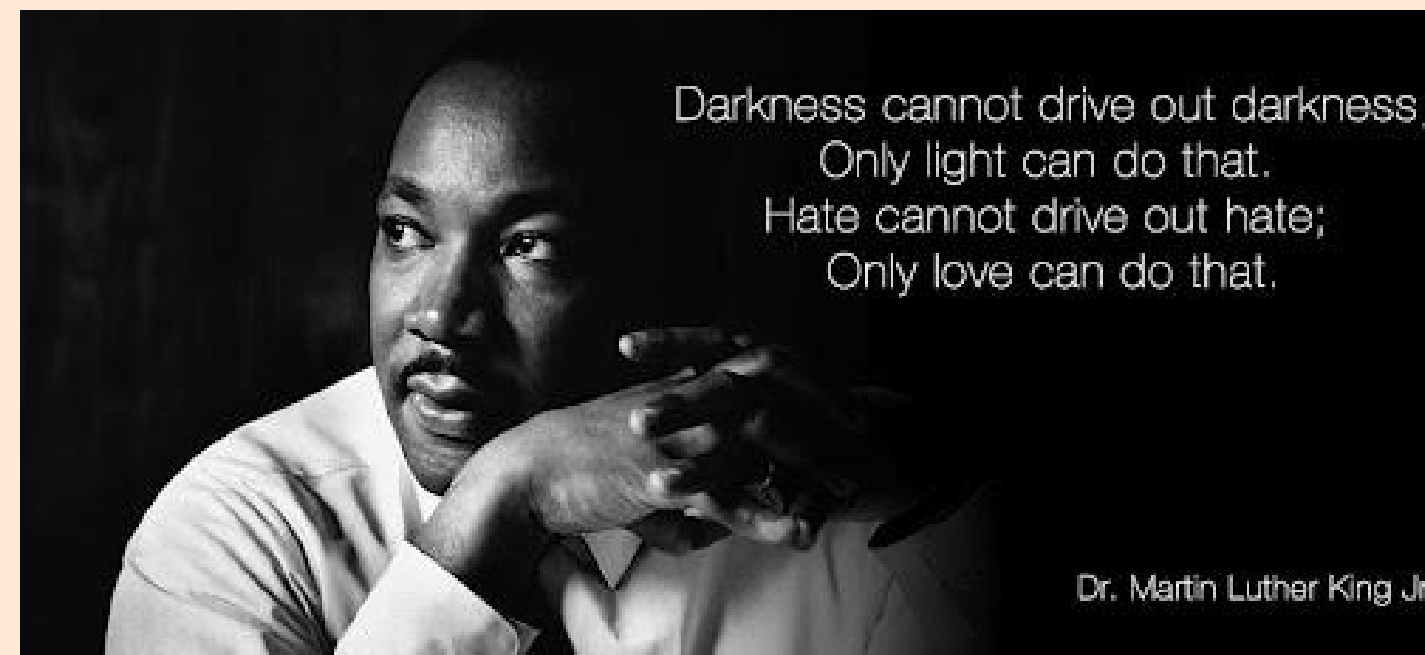
Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States of America on 15th January, 1929. His father was a Baptist Minister and hoped that his son would be one too. Martin had one brother and one sister. Martin was lucky that he was born into a wealthy family who could afford to educate him. During his childhood he witnessed how many black citizens of America had to suffer terrible hardships. This saddened Martin. He didn't like violence or racism. Martin was very clever and worked very hard at school. He worked so hard that he was allowed to skip ahead two grades in High School. Martin attended Morehouse College, Crozer Seminary and Boston College. He studied theology and became a Baptist Minister just like his father. At that time, America was a tough place for black citizens. They often had to suffer terrible treatment from the police and racist white citizens. They did not have equal pay or employment opportunities. They had to live in segregated areas. Their children had to go to different schools. Many shops, hotels, cinemas and restaurants didn't even let black people in. They even had to give up their seats on public transport for white people. It was very unfair. Martin wanted to change this. Martin was going to dedicate his life to the civil rights of American people. Martin married Coretta Scott on June 8th 1953. They had four children, Dexter, Bernice, Martin and Yolanda. Coretta was just as interested in civil rights as Martin was. She was very supportive and travelled all over the country to support him. Martin Luther King Jr was a wonderful speaker. He made powerful speeches and encouraged people to stand up for their rights peacefully. He believed in spreading love, peace and equality rather than the hatred that so many people felt. He held peaceful protests and big marches in cities and towns all over the United States. Sometimes he was even arrested even though he hadn't committed any crimes. This time was known as The Civil Rights Movement and it inspired many people all over the world to stand up against injustice, including Northern Ireland. On August 28th 1963, two hundred and fifty thousand people marched on Washington, D.C. to hear Martin Luther King Jr make his most famous speech of all time. It was called "I have a dream". It was a powerful, moving speech. He talked about his hopes and dreams for peace, love and respect in America. The full speech was 17 minutes long. This is remembered as one of the most famous speeches of all time.



The Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One year after Martin's famous speech, the Civil Rights Act was introduced by the American Government which was aimed at making life a lot easier for all citizens in America. On 14th October 1964, Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway for his efforts and struggles for the Civil Rights Movement. Martin was an inspiration to world leaders and ordinary people. He was the youngest person to ever receive a Nobel Peace Prize at just 35 years old. In April 1968, Martin travelled to Memphis, Tennessee to make a speech to workers in a Sanitation company who were being treated unfairly. On 4th April 1968, the terrible news spread around the world. Martin Luther King had been killed. Standing on the balcony of his hotel room in the Lorraine Motel, Martin was shot and killed by a lone gunman, James Earl Ray. The world stood still in shock. Martin Luther King Jr was just 39 years old.

Despite dying at such a young age, Martin did so much and changed the course of world history for Civil Rights forever. Although he died over fifty years ago Martin's words, ideas, hopes and dreams are still relevant today and we can all still learn a lot from them. Martin Luther King day is celebrated every year on the third Monday of January.





Martin Luther King Jr.

Was...

Wanted...

Believed...

Tried...

Showed...

Said...

Is...



Cloze Procedure: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

educate	father	speaker	peaceful	Coretta
Lorraine	shock	unfairly	Ray	world
marches	clever	Yolanda	support	States
Movement	Theology	rights	Atlanta	Baptist
39	Ireland	minutes	Washington	crimes
Government	killed	famous	balcony	Dream
citizens	news	youngest	April	Nobel

Martin Luther King was born in _____, Georgia, in the United _____ of America on 15th January 1929. His father was a _____ Minister and hoped that his son would be one too. Martin had one brother and one sister. Martin was lucky that he was born into a wealthy family who could afford to _____ him. During his childhood he witnessed how many black citizens of America had to suffer terrible hardships. Martin was very _____ and worked very hard at school. He worked so hard that he was allowed to skip ahead two grades in High School. Martin attended Morehouse College, Crozer Seminary and Boston College. He studied _____ and became a Baptist Minister just like his _____. At that time, America was a tough place for black people. Martin wanted to dedicate his life to the civil _____ of American people. Martin married _____ Scott on June 8th 1953. They had four children, Dexter, Bernice, Martin and _____. Coretta was just as interested in civil rights as Martin was. She travelled all over the country to _____ him. Martin Luther King Jr was a wonderful _____. He made powerful speeches and encouraged people to stand up for their rights peacefully. He believed in spreading love, peace and equality. He held _____ protests and big _____ in cities and towns all over the United States. Sometimes he was even arrested even though he hadn't committed any _____. This time was known as The Civil Rights _____ and it inspired many people all over the world to stand up against injustice, including Northern _____. On August 28th 1963, two hundred and fifty thousand people marched on _____, D.C. to hear Martin Luther King Jr make his most _____ speech of all time. It was called "I have a _____". It was a powerful, moving speech. He talked about his hopes and dreams for peace, love and respect in America. The full speech was 17 _____ long. One year after Martin's famous speech, the Civil Rights Act was brought in by the American _____ which was to make life fairer for so many black _____ in America. On 14th October 1964, Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the _____ Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway for his efforts and struggles for the Civil Rights Movement. He was the _____ person to ever receive a Nobel Peace Prize at just 35 years old. In _____ 1968, Martin travelled to Memphis, Tennessee to make a speech to workers in a Sanitation company who were being treated _____. On 4th April 1968, the terrible _____ spread around the _____. Martin Luther King had been killed. Standing on the _____ of his hotel room in the _____ Motel, Martin was shot and _____ by a lone gunman, James Earl _____. The world stood still in _____. Martin Luther King Jr was just _____ years old.



Martin Luther King Jr dedicated his life to peacefully campaigning for the rights of others.
In the box below, write about what we could do to help make the world a better place for others.





A Recipe for Peace

Example:

- **Find** one large pot and **pour** in a **litre** of **love**.
- **Stir** in one **heaped cup** of **happiness**.
- **Add** one **pinch** of **friendliness**.
- **Mix** in two **tablespoons** of **energy**.
- **Beat** in two **drops** of **essence** of **care**.
- **Sprinkle** in three teaspoons of **positive attitude**.
- **Pour** in a full packet of **smiles**.
- **Whisk** together one **cup** of **powdered joy** and two **cups** of **laughter crumbs**.
- **Mix** it all together in the large pot.
- **Bake** at 200 degrees for two **peaceful** hours and rest on a wire rack.
- This should make a **Peace Pie** to **serve** at least ten people.



Enjoy!

My Recipe for Peace

Take a _____ pot, pour in a litre of _____.

Stir in a heaped cup of _____.

Add a pinch of _____.

Mix in two tablespoons of _____.

Beat in _____.

Sprinkle in a few drops of _____.

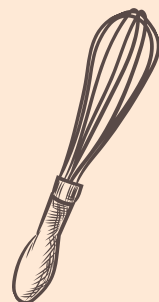
Add one cup of _____ and two cups of _____.

Mix it all together.

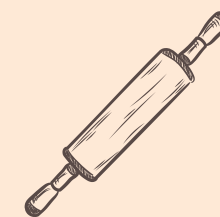
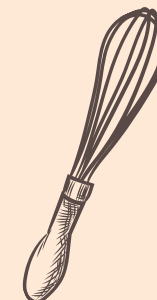
Bake for _____ and serve.

This should make a Peace _____ to serve at _____people.





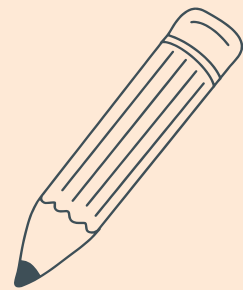
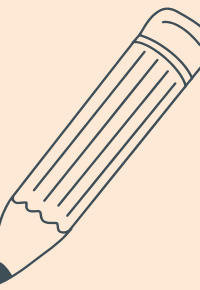
Compose your own recipe for peace:





So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.

As you listen to MLK's famous speech, draw what you are visualising:





Martin Luther King had big dreams; full of hope for the future.

What dreams do you have for the future?

A dream for me...

A dream for my family...

A dream for my school...

A dream for my country...

A dream for the world...

Useful links:

- The King Institute, Stanford University: <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-resources/king-resources-overview>
- Freedom Rings: Animated 'I have a Dream' speech: <http://freedomring.stanford.edu/?view=Speech>
- Martin Luther King & Me: Identifying with a hero: NEA Resources: <https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/martin-luther-king-identifying#ResourceTabs3>
- Classroom Resources for MLK: PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/classroom/2023/01/martin-luther-king-jr-day-classroom-resources/>
- Edutopia: MLK Resources: <https://www.edutopia.org/article/resources-martin-luther-king-jr-day-matt-davis/>

