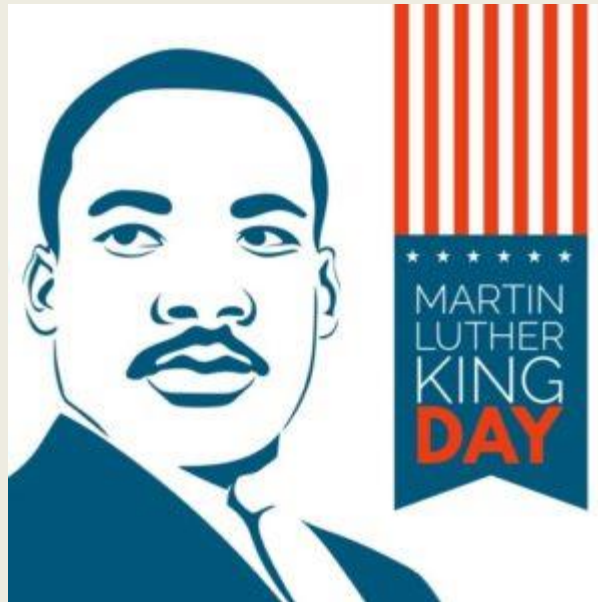


Martin Luther King Day

18th January 2021





Who was
Martin Luther
King?



Martin Luther King Jr. Was **one of America's great leaders.**



He spoke out against laws which kept black people segregated, and led protests and marches demanding fair laws for all people.

Have you heard of him? What do you know?





Martin Luther King Jr. was one of three children. He was born on January 15th 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a pastor and his mother had been a teacher.

Young Martin liked sports. He enjoyed baseball, basketball and American football. He also liked singing and often sang in the Ebenezer Baptist Church where his father was the pastor.



Martin grew up in a time when people were treated differently because of the colour of their skin. This was called **segregation** and Martin couldn't understand why the colour of anyone's skin should be important.

How does this make you feel?
Is this fair?



In Atlanta, and elsewhere in the USA, there were signs which read 'White Only'. This meant black people were not allowed in. These signs were on parks, hotels, restaurants and even schools. There were also restrictions on jobs.

Martin worked hard at his studies and went to college when he was just fifteen years old.

While he was at college he decided to become a pastor, just like his father.



After college he met and married Coretta Scott King. They had four children together.

Martin's first job was as a pastor in a place called Montgomery in Alabama in 1954.

One year later, **Rosa Parks** was arrested in Montgomery for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. The 'White Only' section of the bus had been full and she was in one of the seats just behind.



Martin led a protest. Black people throughout the city refused to ride the buses. This was called the **Montgomery Bus Boycott.**



Many of Martin's followers were very angry and wanted to fight. Martin wanted things to be resolved peacefully. He encouraged black people to try to get along with white people.



The '**Montgomery Bus Boycott**' lasted for a year. When it ended there were no more 'White Only' sections on buses. People could sit where ever they wanted to.

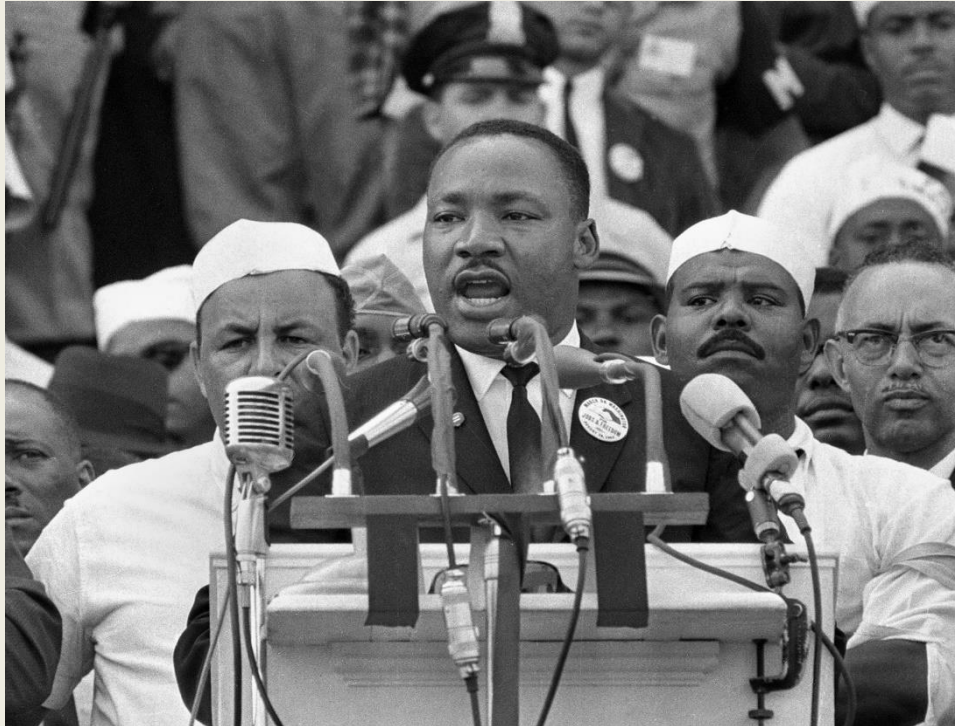
In 1960, Martin moved back to Atlanta. He continued to lead peaceful protests for equal rights and to stop segregation. He wanted everyone to be treated equally. He was arrested many times, even though he was a **peaceful** man.



In 1963 Martin led his biggest march of all – the **March on Washington**. More than two hundred thousand people, of all colours, followed him. It was here that **he gave his most famous speech...**

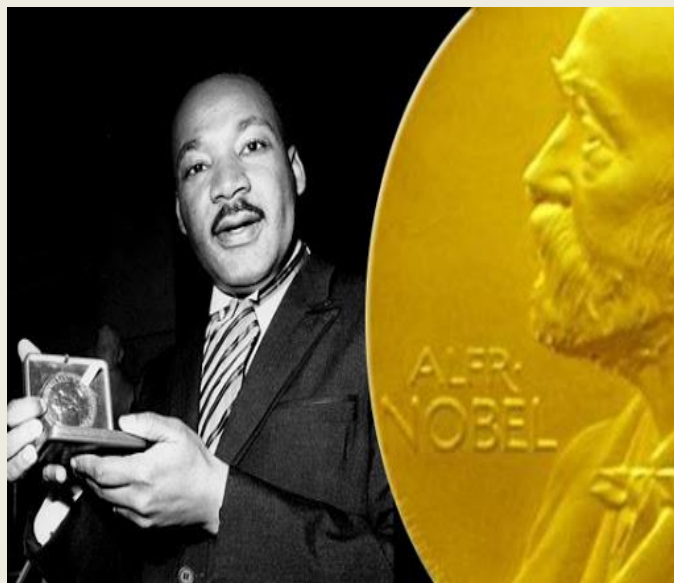


I have a dream....



***“I have a dream
that my four
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.”***

What does this mean? Is how you treat others more important than what you look like?

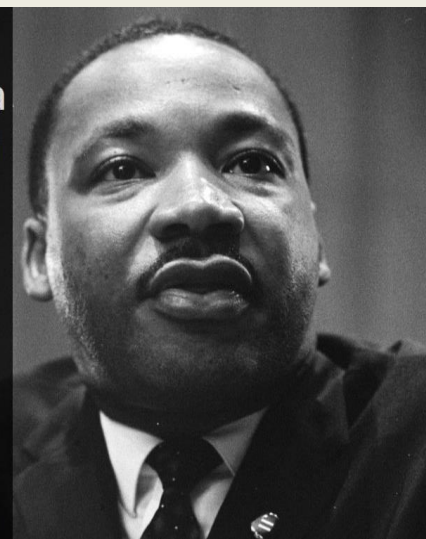


In **1964**, Martin was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** – a great honour. The USA was changing. New laws were passed and ‘Whites Only’ signs were against the law.

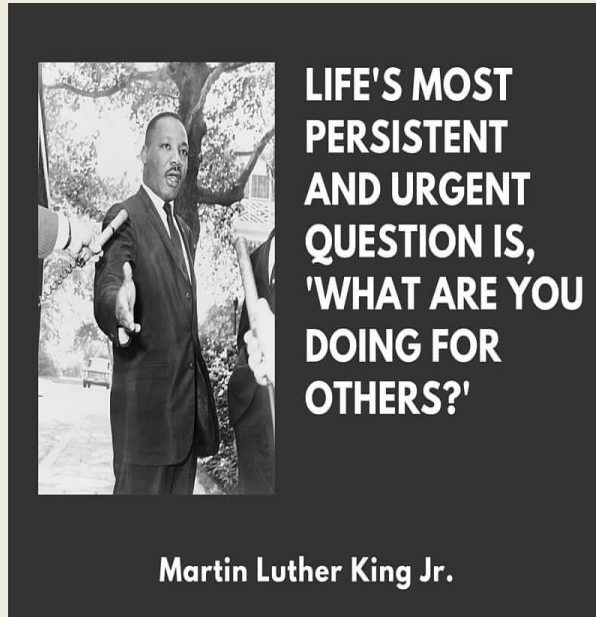
In some areas, however, there were still problems. Although Martin told his followers to protest peacefully there were sometimes outbreaks of violence.

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

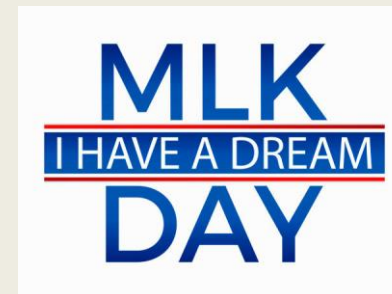


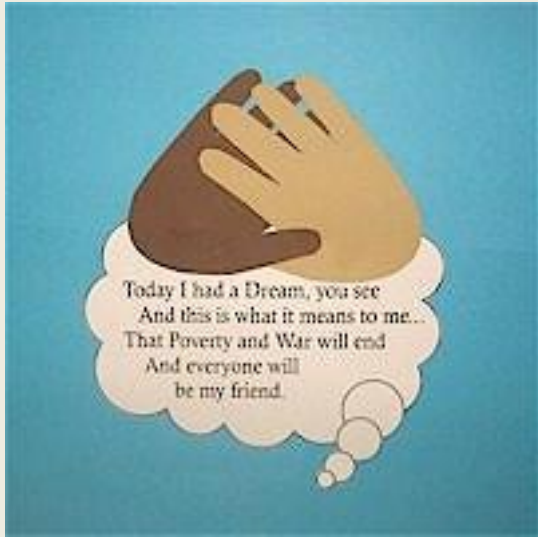
In **April 1968**, Martin travelled to Memphis, Tennessee. He planned to march for equal pay for white and black refuse workers.



But, on **April 4th** Martin Luther King was shot by a man called James Earl Ray. Sadly he died.

The **third Monday in January every year** is Martin Luther King Day in the USA. It's a national holiday.





What's your dream?

Martin Luther King Jr wanted to make the world a better place. What is your dream for the world? Think about what you could do to make our world a better place.





I Dream...

Other activities to try if you wish...

Martin Luther King, Jr. Timeline

Cut out the cards about the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Glue them in the correct order below.

1929	1953	1955-1956	1963	1964

MLK Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech.



MLK Jr. is the youngest man to earn the Nobel Peace Prize.



MLK Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.



MLK Jr. leads the Montgomery Bus Boycott that begins after Rosa Parks won't give up her bus seat.



MLK Jr. marries Coretta Scott.



Quote reflection

Choose a quote from below. Write a paragraph about what you think Dr King meant when he said it, and what it means to you.

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

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Quote reflection continued

Choose a quote from below. Write a paragraph about what you think Dr King meant when he said it, and what it means to you.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Only in the darkness can you see the stars."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Other activities:

Read the facts here, watch the video and try the activity.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjkj382/articles/zknmrj6>

Create a biography about MLK.

Create a fact file.

Draw a portrait.