

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. was a Black man and he was born in the USA on 15th January 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.

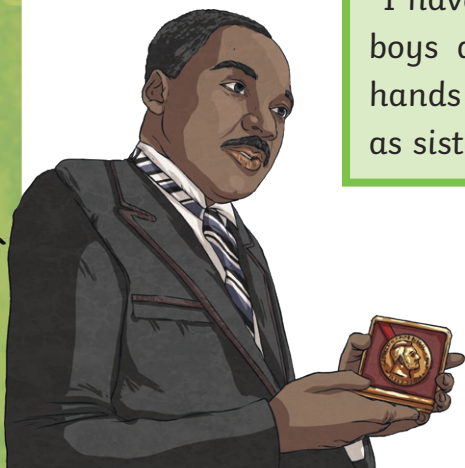


Black children were not allowed to go to school with White children. They had to go to separate schools that didn't have many resources to help with their learning.

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 sisters and brothers."



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It is because of Martin Luther King and others like him that the law was changed in the USA. The new law stated that everyone had the same rights regardless of 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 USA.

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. Draw **three** lines and complete the sentences.

Martin Luther King Jr. fought for...

Black people 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

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