

Black History Month

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



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EARLY LIFE

Martin Luther King Jr. born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, experienced a childhood deeply impacted by the harsh realities of racial segregation. His father, a Baptist minister, and his mother, a teacher and musician, instilled in him the values of equality. During King's formative years, segregation laws dictated where blacks and whites could go, separating them in schools and public spaces. His family actively protested this discrimination. King's parents, leading by example, refused to accept a segregated establishment where they faced mistreatment. King's exceptional intelligence stood out early on, leading him to skip two grades in school. This period of his life set the stage for his future as a powerful speaker and advocate for civil rights. The racial disparities he witnessed and experienced during his youth deeply influenced his commitment to fighting for justice and equality.

EDUCATION

King's educational journey played a crucial role in shaping his future as a leader. Starting at Morehouse College in Atlanta, he continued his studies in Boston, Massachusetts, focusing on ministry. Driven by a thirst for knowledge, he pursued a doctorate in theology. It was during his time in Boston that he met Coretta Scott, a significant chapter in his personal life. As he embarked on his ministerial path, going to seminary at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King's educational background served as a foundation for his leadership. His exposure to various forms of activism, inspiring change through peaceful means.

PEACEFUL PROTEST

Martin Luther King Jr. staunchly believed in non-violent protest as a means to achieve equality. Inspired by the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, he led the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, lasting 381 days. This boycott, marked by its peaceful nature, aimed to end bus segregation in Alabama. King's leadership during this time challenged the Supreme Court's decision eventually leading to a landmark ruling against segregation, marking a significant triumph for civil rights. His commitment to peaceful activism became a cornerstone of his leadership.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Martin Luther King Jr. was a powerful leader in the civil rights movement.



in the early 1950s, he was a powerful leader in the civil rights movement. He was a powerful leader in the civil rights movement.

On April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. His death led to widespread mourning and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

His historical legacy is still ongoing in the United States, emphasizing the importance of non-violent protest and the pursuit of equality.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Comprehension Questions

Choose the right answer.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in
a. Massachusetts
b. Georgia
c. Tennessee
d. Alabama

2. Martin Luther King Jr.'s belief in non-violence was based on the teachings of
a. Mahatma Gandhi
b. Martin Luther
c. Jesus Christ
d. Buddha

3. King's movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. was called
a. The Civil Rights Movement
b. The Black Power Movement
c. The Freedom Riders
d. The Sit-ins

4. King was assassinated in
a. Memphis, Tennessee
b. Atlanta, Georgia
c. Birmingham, Alabama
d. Montgomery, Alabama

5. How old was Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated?
a. 39
b. 40
c. 41
d. 42

NO-PREP & EDITABLE

READING COMPREHENSION



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

EARLY LIFE

Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, experienced a childhood deeply impacted by the harsh realities of racial segregation. His father, a Baptist preacher, and his mother, a teacher and musician, instilled in him the values of equality. During King's formative years, segregation laws dictated where blacks and whites could go, separating them in schools and public spaces. The King family actively protested this discrimination, with Martin's parents leading by example, refusing to patronize establishments where they faced mistreatment. Martin's exceptional intelligence stood out early on, leading him to skip two grades in school. This period of his life set the stage for his future as a powerful speaker and advocate for civil rights. The racial disparities he witnessed and experienced during his youth deeply influenced his commitment to fighting for justice and equality.



EDUCATION

Martin Luther King Jr.'s education shaped his future as a leader. Starting his continued studies in Boston, driven by a thirst for knowledge, he expanded his intellectual horizons. He met Coretta Scott, a significant figure in his ministerial path, joining Church in Atlanta, King's educational For his later activism, inspiring change.



PEACEFUL PROTEST

Martin Luther King Jr. led non-violent protests for equality. Inspired by Gandhi, he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This boycott, in nature, aimed to

Despite initial legal challenges, the Supreme Court's decision in favor of desegregation, marking a significant step in King's commitment to peaceful activism and his influential legacy.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Martin Luther King Jr. became an iconic figure in the civil rights movement, advocating for racial equality through non-violent means. His impactful speeches through non-violent means played a pivotal role in events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the historic march in Washington, D.C., where he delivered his renowned "I Have a Dream" speech. King's commitment to civil rights earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, making him the youngest recipient at the time. Despite facing arrests, bombings, and violence, he continued to be a beacon of hope and inspiration in the fight against segregation and discrimination.



LEGACY

Tragically, Martin Luther King Jr.'s life was cut short on April 4, 1968, when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 39. His untimely death was a devastating blow to the civil rights movement and to the nation as a whole. Despite the tragic end to his life, King's legacy endures as a powerful symbol of leadership and peaceful activism. His profound impact on the fight against racial injustice and inequality remains evident in the lasting changes he helped bring about. Martin Luther King Jr.'s influence is felt not only in the historical milestones achieved during the civil rights era but also in the ongoing struggle for equality and justice today. His birthday is now commemorated as a national holiday in the United States, emphasizing the significance of his contributions to the nation. Additionally, countless schools, parks, and streets in major cities bear his name, serving as a reminder of his enduring legacy. King's vision for change through nonviolent protests continues to inspire generations, fostering a commitment to justice, equality, and social change around the world.

Name: _____

Date: _____

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Comprehension Questions

Directions: Choose the right answer.

1. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

- a) Boston, Massachusetts
- b) Montgomery, Alabama
- c) Atlanta, Georgia
- d) Memphis, Tennessee

2. What inspired Martin Luther King Jr.'s belief in non-violent protest?

- a) Nelson Mandela
- b) Winston Churchill
- c) Mahatma Gandhi
- d) Abraham Lincoln

3. What event in Montgomery, Alabama, marked the beginning of the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr.?

- a) Selma March
- b) Birmingham Protests
- c) Montgomery Bus Boycott
- d) Washington, D.C. March

4. _____

Answers Key

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQ'S)

- 1. c) Atlanta, Georgia
- 2. c) Mahatma Gandhi
- 3. c) Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 4. b) Birmingham Protests
- 5. c) Washington, D.C.
- 6. b) Selma
- 7. b) Equal rights for all citizens
- 8. a) Atlanta
- 9. c) Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 10. c) Joining civil rights movements

EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS:

1. How did Martin Luther King Jr.'s childhood experiences, as described in the passage, influence his later commitment to civil rights activism?

-Answer- Martin Luther King Jr.'s childhood experiences, particularly witnessing his parents' availing places with mistreatment, established in him a strong conviction against segregation. This influenced his commitment to fighting for civil rights and equality.

2. Explain the significance of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the civil rights movement, and how did it contribute to bringing about change?

-Answer- The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a pivotal event in the civil rights movement, marked by African Americans refusing to ride city buses to protest segregation. The Supreme Court ruling that followed made bus segregation illegal, bringing about a significant change and setting a precedent for challenging discriminatory laws.

3. Describe Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy of non-violent protest and how he applied it in various civil rights activities.

-Answer- Martin Luther King Jr. believed in non-violent protest and specific examples include the Montgomery Bus Boycott and leading peaceful marches, emphasizing the power of civil disobedience without resorting to violence.

7. What significant change occurred after the Supreme Court decision in response to the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

- 1. Segregation
- 2. All citizens
- 3. Segregation on buses
- 4. Laws for African Americans

Martin Luther King Jr. lived in when he was a Baptist Church?

When was Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday recognized as?

- 1. Day
- 2. Day
- 3. Day
- 4. Day

What was the enduring legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. after his passage?

- 1. Political party
- 2. Non-violent protest
- 3. Civil rights movements
- 4. Nobel Prize

EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS:

1. How did Martin Luther King Jr.'s childhood experiences, as described in the passage, influence his later commitment to civil rights?

2. What was the significance of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the civil rights movement, and how did it contribute to bringing about change?

3. Describe Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy of non-violent protest and how he applied it in various civil rights activities. Provide specific examples.

4. What challenges and obstacles did Martin Luther King Jr. face in his leadership in the civil rights movement, as mentioned in the passage?

5. How did the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and the events surrounding the March on Washington contribute to the civil rights movement, and what changes did it bring about?

_____ his famous "I Have a

_____ was assassinated?

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

READY TO PRINT

NO-PREP !

JUST PRINT AND GO!



EASY EDITING

EDITABLE

***FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

