

Week of May 18-22

WHO'S WHAT'S Who and What See What You Know

See what you know about the life and impact of Martin Luther King Jr. Good luck!

1. On January 15, 1929, Michael Luther King, Jr., later renamed Martin (and called "M.L." by his family), was born in the Sweet Auburn district of Atlanta, Georgia, to schoolteacher Alberta King and Baptist minister Michael Luther King. When he was 18, King was licensed to preach and began assisting his father at which Atlanta church?

- Abernathy Baptist Church
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Morehouse Baptist Church
- Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
- Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church



2. Rosa Parks, known as "the mother of the civil rights movement," walked into history on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat for a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus and was subsequently arrested. Five days later, Martin Luther King Jr. was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and assisted Parks and others in organizing the_____.

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Civil Rights Movement
- Montgomery bus boycott
- Freedom Riders
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



3. In August 1957, 115 black leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., met in Montgomery and formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). A few weeks later, Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus sent state police to a high school in _____, where racial integration had been scheduled to start on September 3, 1957. By early that morning about 100 members of the state militia had surrounded the school armed with billy clubs, rifles and bayonets, and some carried gas masks.

- Jonesboro
- Pine Bluff
- Montgomery
- Hope
- Little Rock



4. Martin Luther King Jr. powerful speeches and writings, which served to unify both blacks and whites fighting to end segregation in the South, resonate just as loudly today. Which of writings below was NOT a speech delivered by King?

- "Give Us the Ballot"
- "Letter From Birmingham Jail"
- "I Have a Dream"
- "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech"
- "I've Been to the Mountaintop"



5. In December 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. accepted the Nobel Prize in _____ . In his acceptance speech, he acknowledged that he was accepting this most prestigious award "at a moment when twenty-two million Negroes of the United States of America (were) engaged in a creative battle to end the long night of racial injustice (and) in behalf of a civil rights movement which (was) moving with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice."

- Peace
- Medicine
- Physics
- Economics
- Literature



6. In late March 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. led a march of approximately 6,000 protesters in support of striking Memphis sanitation workers. Less than one week later, King delivered his last speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," at the Mason Temple in Memphis. The next day, King was assassinated. On April 23, 1998, _____, who was serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., died in a Nashville hospital.

- John Campbell
- George Wallace
- David Berkowitz
- James Earl Ray
- Lee Harvey Oswald



7. The Martin Luther King Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center) was established in 1968 by Mrs. Coretta Scott King as a living memorial dedicated to preserving the legacy of her husband and to promoting the elimination of poverty, racism and war through research, education and training in Kingian nonviolence. In 1995, which King family member became chair, president and chief executive officer of the King Center?

- Dexter Scott King
- Yolanda Denise King
- Martin Luther King, III
- Bernice Albertine King
- Coretta Scott King



8. Four days after King was assassinated, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan submitted the first legislation proposing King's birthday as holiday. Not until 1970 did a state (California) pass legislation making King's birthday a school holiday. On Nov. 2, 1983, legislation for the day to be a national holiday was signed by President Ronald Reagan. In what year was King's birthday first observed as a legal holiday nationwide?

- 1984
- 1985
- 1986
- 1987
- 1988



WHO'S and WHAT'S
WhoWhat See What You Know

Background Information Civil Rights

Background

Before the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's, racial discrimination was deeply imbedded in American society. The reality of life for the great majority of African Americans meant that they lived with gross inequities in housing, employment, education, medical services, and public accommodations. Often they were denied the right to vote and faced great injustices within the legal system.

Segregation was a way of life. Most urban blacks, particularly in the South, lived in isolated tenements because white landlords refused them rent. Blacks had little access to "good" jobs, finding work mainly in positions of service to white employers. Black children attended separate, inferior schools. The result of being denied both employment and educational opportunities was that the great majority of African American families lived in poverty, with nearly 75% earning less than \$3,000 a year in 1950. In addition, Southern blacks were denied admittance to such public facilities as hospitals, restaurants, theaters, motels, and parks. Blacks were even denied the use of public restrooms and drinking fountains marked with "For Whites Only" signs. When separate public accommodations for blacks were provided, they were usually inferior in quality and poorly maintained. At establishments in which practicality dictated that blacks and whites share the same facilities, blacks were relegated by law to the back of buses and trains and to the balconies of movies houses and courtrooms.

Worse, many African Americans were even denied the right to participate in America's political process. They were kept from voting by state laws, poll taxes, reading tests, and even beatings by local police. Unlawful acts of violence against blacks, such as those perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan, were ignored by the much of Southern society, and African Americans could expect little help from the judicial system. In fact, instances of police intimidation and brutality were all too common.

Change came slowly. Embittered Southern whites carried distrust learned during the years of Reconstruction following the Civil War. However, in the late 1940's following World War II (when America had fought for freedom and democracy abroad and therefore felt compelled to make good on these promises at home), the federal government began to pass laws against racial discrimination. The United States military was integrated for the first time, and new laws and court rulings prohibited segregation in schools, government buildings, and public transportation. However, many of these laws met with bitter opposition in the South or were simply ignored. When members of the African American community tried to break through old barriers, they were often threatened or beaten and, in some cases, killed. Likewise, black homes and churches were sometimes burned or bombed.

It was within this atmosphere that Martin Luther King, Jr., rose as a prominent leader in the civil rights movement. The son of a Baptist minister who was himself ordained, he was inspired by both Christian ideals and India's Mohandas K. Gandhi's philosophies of nonviolent resistance to peaceable confront injustice. King first came into the national spotlight when he organized the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott---during which time he was jailed, his home burned, and his life threatened. The result, however, was the mandate from the Supreme Court outlawing segregation on public transportation, and King emerged as a respected leader and the voice of nonviolent protest. He led marches, sit-ins, demonstrations, and black voter-registration drives throughout the South until his assassination in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1964 King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the civil rights movement. Both Americans and the international community recognized King's contributions in overcoming civil rights abuses without allowing the struggle to erupt into a blood bath. It was King's leadership that held the movement together with a dedication to nonviolent change. Many believe that King's skillful guidance and powerful oratory skills kept the South out of a second civil war, this time between the races. King led the civil rights movement to meet each act of violence, attack, murder, or slander with a forgiving heart, a working hand, and a hopeful dream for the future.

Worksheets

Note: Answer sections I, II, III and IV on a separate sheet of paper:

I. Vocabulary Development

- a. Find three words in the background information on the previous page about which you are unsure and look up their meanings. Write the definitions.
- b. Read Dr. King's I Have A Dream speech. Find seven words about which you are unsure and look up their meanings. Write the definitions.

II. Rhetorical Structure: Figures of Speech

Certain rhetorical devices called figures of speech (similes, metaphors, allusions, alliteration, etc.) are used in both poetry and prose to make ideas more memorable and forceful. For centuries speakers and writers have known that such well said devices affect listeners and readers in powerful ways.

- ~~1. Define: alliteration, allusion, metaphor, and simile.~~
- ~~2. "Five score years ago," the opening phrase of King's speech, is an allusion to what or whom? Why was this appropriate for King to begin his speech?~~
- ~~3. King's speech contains other allusions in addition to the one with which he opens his speech. Find an allusion to the Declaration of Independence and the Bible.~~
- ~~4. Find an example of alliteration in King's speech.~~
- ~~5. Find an example of a metaphor.~~
- ~~6. Find an example of a simile.~~
- ~~7. In the second paragraph, King says that "the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."~~

- ~~o What type of figure of speech is this?~~
 - ~~o These words bring up strong images of slavery. Why would this be an effective method of moving his audience?~~
 - ~~o What inference was King making about the progress of African Americans to enter the mainstream of American life in the one hundred years which followed the end of slavery?~~
8. ~~Another figure of speech is called an anaphora or the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of a sentence, verse, or paragraph. Besides the famous "I have a dream" phrase, find two other examples of anaphora's.~~
9. List at least two possible effects upon King's audience of repeating the phrase, "I have a dream."
10. ~~Nearly every line of King's speech is filled with powerful images, or "mental pictures," many created by using figures of speech. Images help audiences to feel what speakers/writers want them to feel, help them remember what they have read or heard, and help them understand difficult material. Write a well-developed paragraph telling which of King's images you find most powerful and appealing and explain why this image had meaning for you.~~

III. Understanding the Dream

1. Write a paragraph summarizing King's dream in your own words.
2. What are some of the specific acts of injustice against African Americans which King cites in his speech?
3. ~~Besides the Declaration of Independence and the Bible, King cites "the American dream" as a source for his own dream. What is the American dream? Discuss this concept with friends and family members and then write a composite definition for this commonly used term.~~
4. ~~Near the end of his speech, King names many different states. Why do you think he did this?~~
5. ~~"I Have a Dream" was a persuasive speech meant to convey to King's audience the need for change and encourage them to work for federal legislation to help~~

~~end racial discrimination. If you had been in the vast crowd that day, do you think you would have been moved by King's speech? Why or why not?~~

IV. *Relating to the Dream*

1. What is your definition of racism?
2. ~~The civil rights movement was met with much opposition, from Southern governors and other elected officials to cross-burning members of the Ku Klux Klan. Unfortunately, Civil Rights opponents sometimes turned to violence against black leaders and members of the black community.~~
 - ~~Explain why you think extreme right-wing organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan would choose violence as a means to fight against the Civil Rights movement, even though their actions enraged the rest of the country and gained sympathy for the cause of Southern blacks?~~
 - ~~Why do you think the black community withstood such violent attacks without responding with their own violent retaliations? Explain your response.~~
3. ~~Today "skinheads" share the same radical right-wing philosophies and views supporting white supremacy and segregation of the races that had been held by Hitler during World War II and the Ku Klux Klan during the civil rights movement.~~
 - ~~What are your views on racist radical right-wing groups, do you think these groups are dangerous? Explain your response.~~
4. King was assassinated for his work in civil rights. A quotation from the Bible on the memorial at his gravesite reads, "Behold the dreamer. Let us slay him, and we will see what will become of his dream."
 - What do you think has become of King's dream?
 - Write two paragraphs: one telling in what ways the dream has been fulfilled and one telling what yet remains to be accomplished.