

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader who worked hard to make sure all people were treated fairly, no matter the color of their skin. He was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. His parents were very caring and taught him the importance of being kind and standing up for what is right. His dad was a church leader, and his mom used to be a teacher.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

In 1955, Dr. King helped lead a big protest called the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This started because Rosa Parks, a Black woman, refused to give her seat on a bus to a white person. The protest lasted over a year and helped change the rules so everyone could sit wherever they wanted on buses.

Peaceful Protests

Dr. King believed in solving problems peacefully. He thought people could make the world better without fighting. He learned this idea from a man named Mahatma Gandhi.

The March on Washington

In 1963, Dr. King gave a famous speech called the "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. He talked about his dream of a world where everyone would be treated equally. Thousands of people came to hear him speak.

The Civil Rights Act

Dr. King worked with many others to help pass a new law in 1964 called the Civil Rights Act. This law made it illegal to treat people unfairly because of their skin color, religion, or if they were a man or a woman.

The Nobel Peace Prize

In 1964, Dr. King won a special award called the Nobel Peace Prize. He got this prize because he worked so hard to make sure people were treated fairly in a peaceful way.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered for helping make the world a better place. He believed in fairness, kindness, and working together. His dream of everyone being treated equally is still important today, and many people continue to work toward that dream.



Vocabulary for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Segregation:

Keeping groups of people apart, like making Black and white people use different schools, buses, or bathrooms.

Discrimination:

Treating someone unfairly because of their skin color, gender, or other differences.

Injustice:

Something unfair that happens when people are not treated the same way or given the same chances.

Prejudice:

Deciding you don't like someone or thinking something bad about them before you really know them.

Oppression:

When a group of people is treated in a mean or unfair way for a long time.

Freedom:

Being able to live, speak, and do things without being controlled unfairly by others.

Justice:

Making sure everyone is treated fairly and equally.

Segregated:

A word used to describe when people are kept apart because of things like their race.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – Worksheet

Read each sentence carefully. Use the clues in the sentence to figure out the meaning of the bolded word. Write what you think it means on the blank line.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in fighting for **fairness**, where people are treated equally and kindly, no matter their skin color.

Meaning: _____

2. He spoke out against **discrimination**, which is when people are treated unfairly because of things like skin color.

Meaning: _____

3. Dr. King encouraged a peaceful way of protesting, called **nonviolence**, to help make the world a kinder and better place.

Meaning: _____

4. He was a strong advocate for **equality**, making sure all people have the same chances and are treated the same.

Meaning: _____

5. He was a strong advocate for ensuring that people of all backgrounds have the same rights and opportunities.

Meaning: _____

6. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in using his voice to stand up for **justice** even when it was difficult.

Meaning: _____



Answers Key:

1. **Equality:** Treating people fairly and giving everyone the same chances.
2. **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment of people because of their race or other differences.
3. **Nonviolent protest:** A peaceful way to make changes happen.
4. **Civil rights:** The rights all people should have to be treated equally and fairly.
5. **Justice:** Doing what is right and fair for everyone.
6. **Segregation:** Keeping people apart because of their race.

