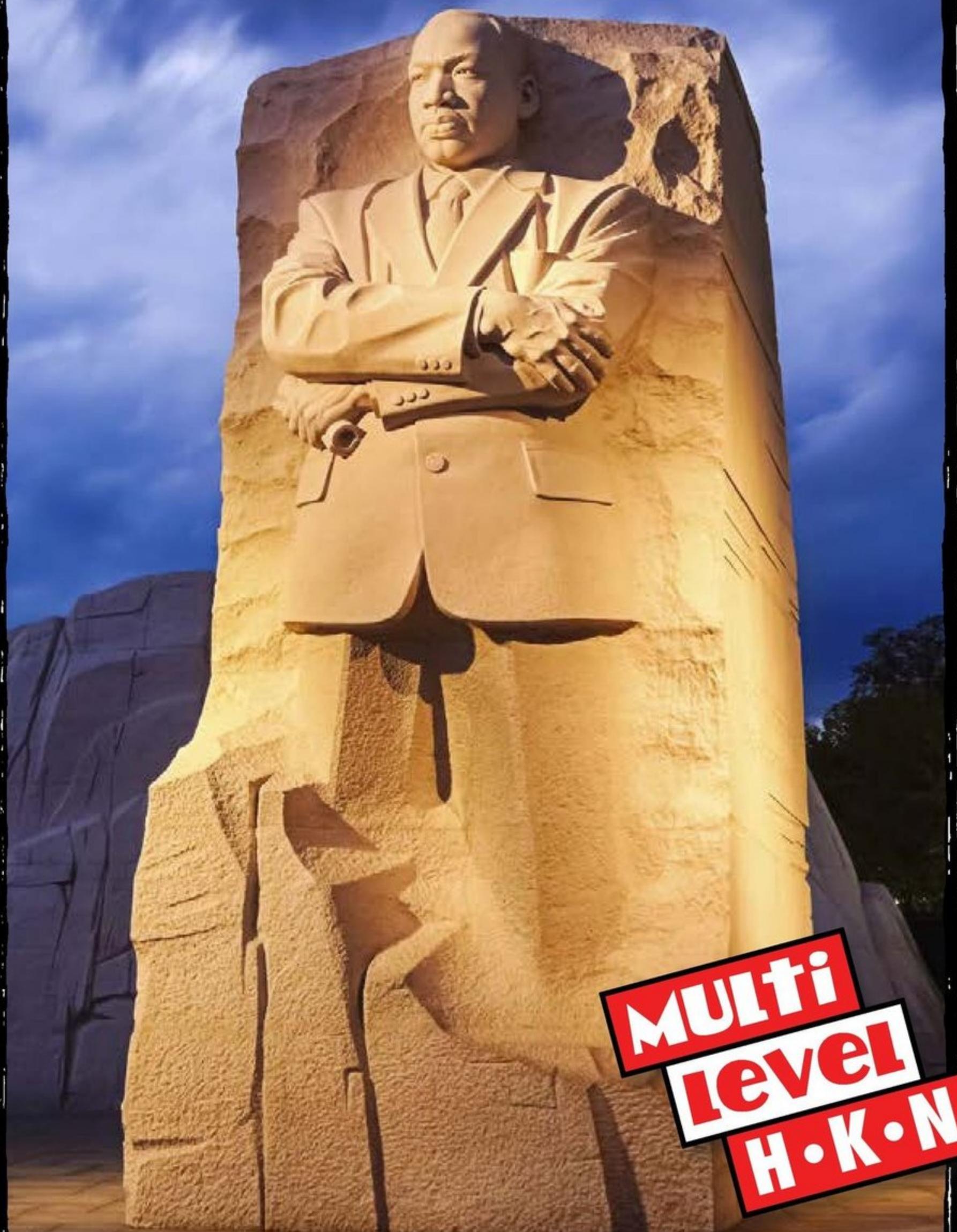


LEVELED Book • K

# Dr. King's Memorial



Written by Kira Freed

# Dr. King's Memorial



Written by Kira Freed

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

## Focus Question

Who was Dr. King, and why is he important?

## Words to Know

laws

memorial

peaceful

protested

racism

separate

**Title page:** Dr. King with his wife and children in 1966

**Photo Credits:**

Front cover: © Jan Hanus/123RF; title page: © AJC/AP Images; page 3: © Richard Sheinwald/Landov; page 4: © Jody Neice/Alamy; pages 5, 14: © AP Images; page 6: © Everett Collection/SuperStock; pages 7 (top), 8, 13: © Bettmann/Corbis; page 7 (bottom): © akg-images/The Image Works; page 9: © Everett Collection Historical/Alamy; page 10 (top): © The Star-Ledger/Dave Booker/The Image Works; page 10 (bottom): © Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Rex/Rex USA; page 11: © The Granger Collection, NYC; page 12: © Everett Collection Inc/Alamy; page 15: © Stacy Gold/National Geographic/SuperStock

Dr. King's Memorial  
Level K Leveled Book  
© Learning A-Z  
Written by Kira Freed

All rights reserved.

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

**Correlation**

LEVEL K	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



## Table of Contents

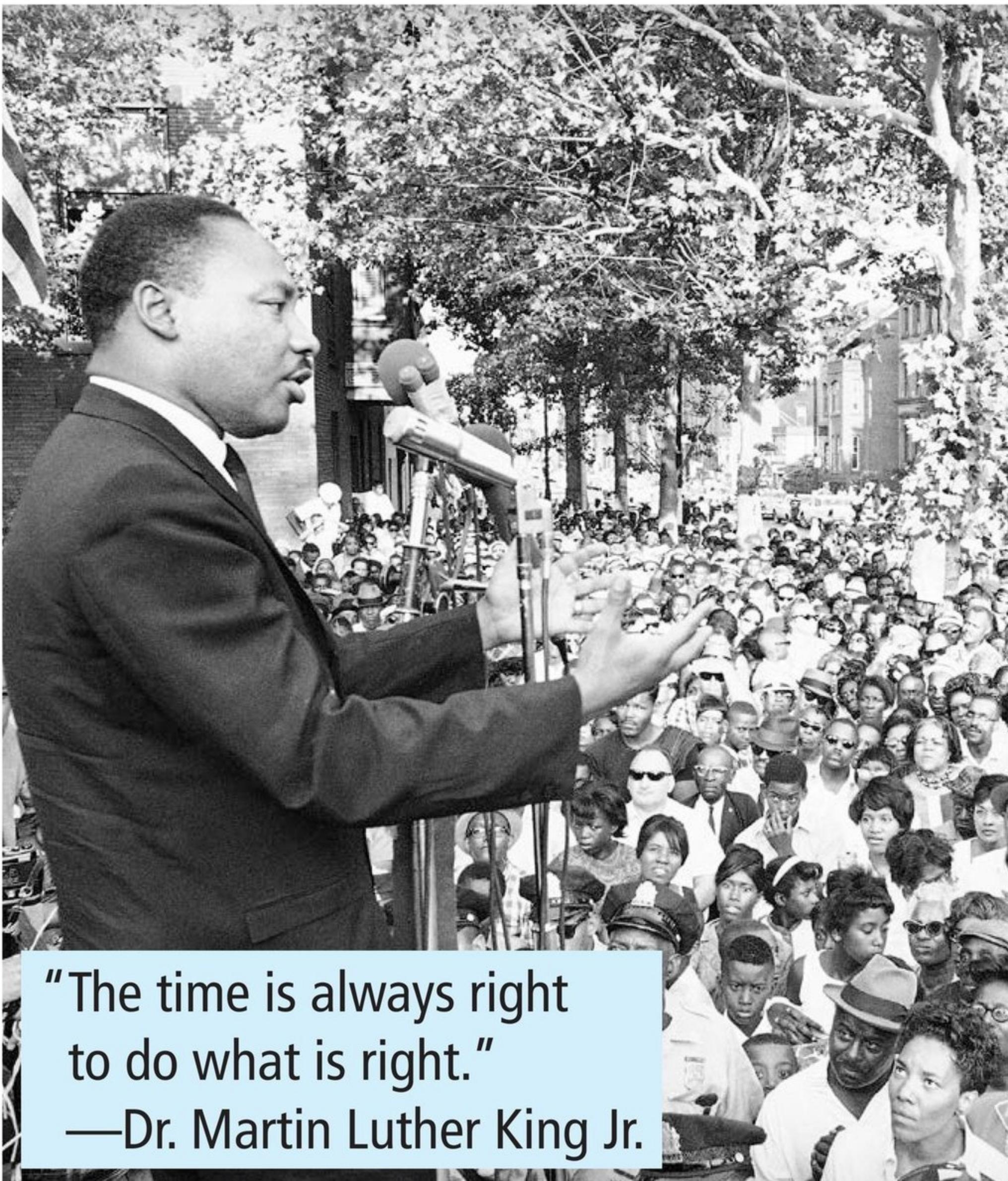
Introduction .....	4
The South .....	6
Dr. King's Work .....	9
New Laws .....	12
Dr. King's Dream .....	14
Glossary .....	16



Visitors admire the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

## Introduction

A **memorial** in Washington, D.C., honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The memorial has a large sculpture of Dr. King and famous words that he said.



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

**—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Many people listen as Dr. King gives a speech about equality.

Who was Dr. King, and why do we remember him? Dr. King was a great leader. He wanted equal rights for all people, no matter their race, or color.



A young Martin Luther King Jr. (front right) is shown with his family.

## The South

Dr. King grew up in Georgia, a state in the South, in the 1930s. Racism was common in the South, and many laws were unfair to black people.



Black people and white people could not drink from the same drinking fountains in the South.

The laws kept black people and white people **separate** from each other. Black children had to go to different schools from white children. Black people had to use different drinking fountains from white people.



Black people sit at the back of a bus.

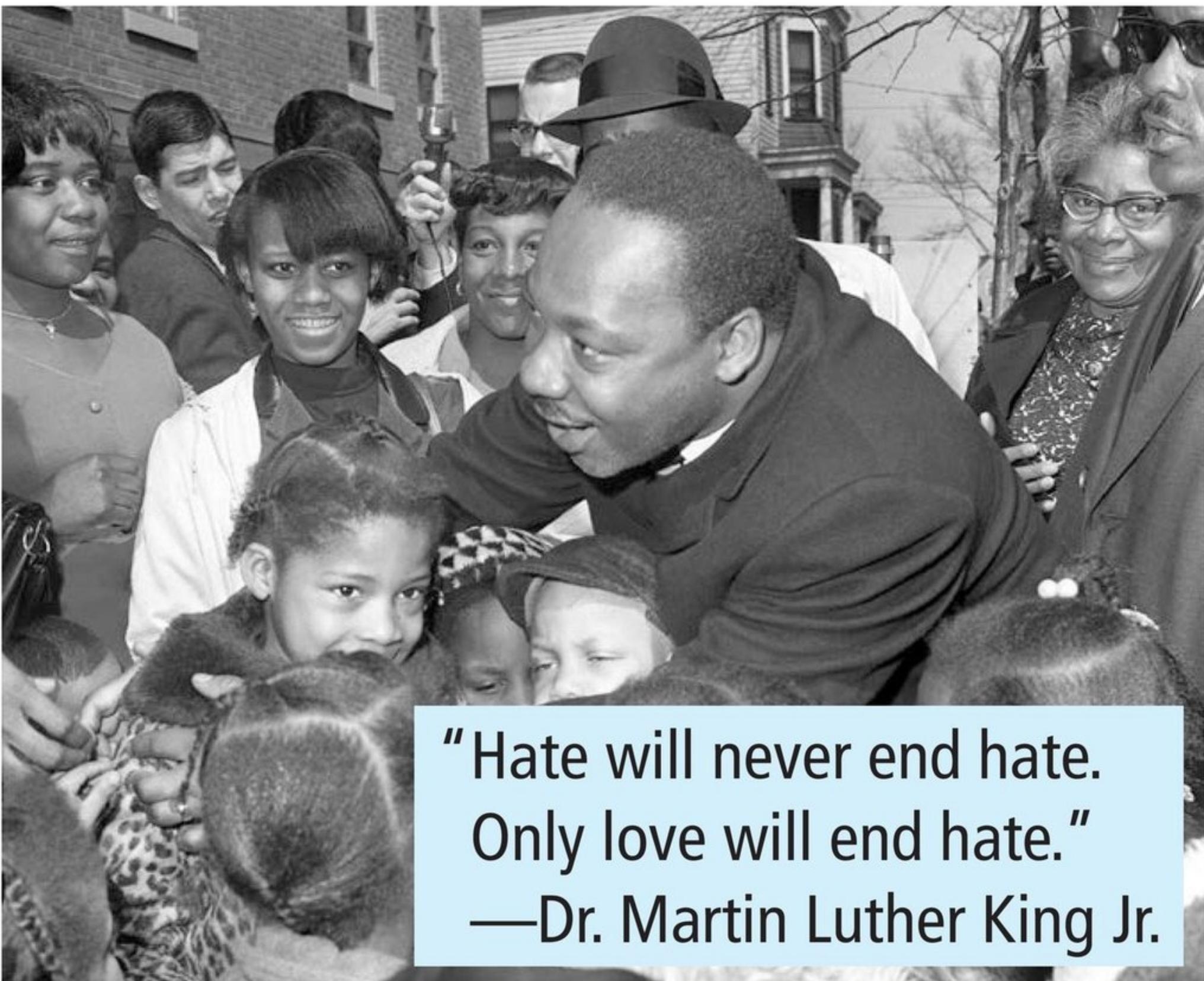
Laws said black people had to sit at the backs of city buses. The front seats were only for white people. Black people also rode in different railroad cars than white people. Black people weren't allowed to use the same restrooms as white people.



Dr. King talks to people about unfair laws.

## Dr. King's Work

Dr. King wanted the unfair laws to change. He wanted the laws to treat people of all races equally. He talked to many people about how to change the laws.



“Hate will never end hate.  
Only love will end hate.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King wanted to use **peaceful** ways to make changes. He said there was already too much hate in the world to use violence.

### Do You Know?

Rosa Parks would not give up her seat at the front of a bus in 1955. She was arrested. People around the country heard about it. Her courage helped change the unfair laws.





Dr. King leads a march to change the unfair laws.

Dr. King and his followers marched with many people as a peaceful way to fight racism. They hoped to get the unfair laws changed.

They also **protested** racism by peacefully refusing to follow the unfair laws. For example, they held sit-ins. They sat at counters where only white people were allowed to sit. Refusing to move, some people were arrested by the police, including Dr. King.



Dr. King shakes hands with President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. President Johnson signed a bill that changed the unfair laws.

## New Laws

Dr. King and his followers worked hard for years. Finally, in 1964, the government changed the unfair laws. The new laws are much fairer. It is now against the law to treat people differently because of their race.



Two black girls go to a school that used to be for white children only.

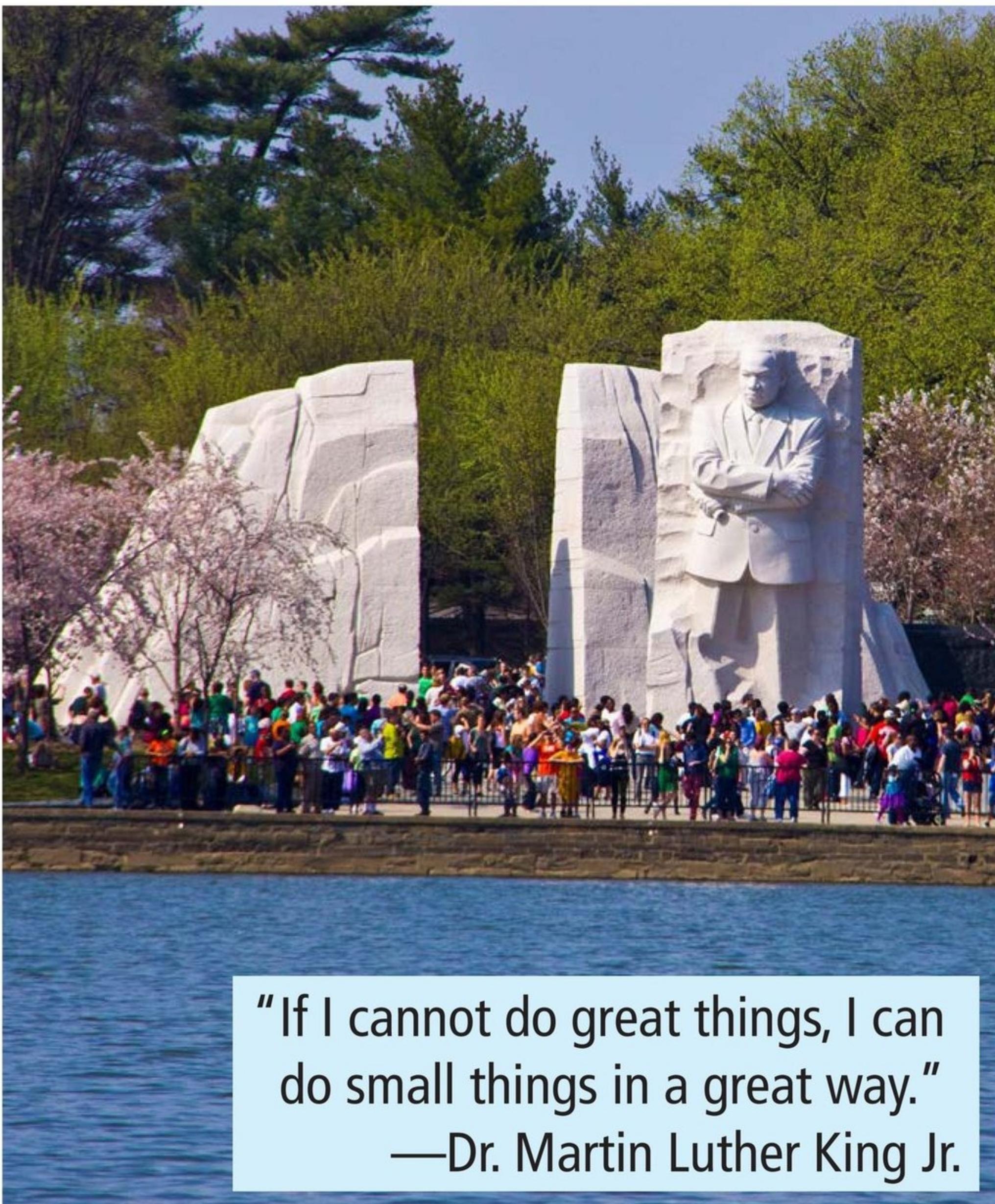
Black children and white children can go to the same schools. Everyone can sit where they want on buses and trains, and in restaurants. The same water fountains and restrooms can be used by every race.



Dr. King waves to the crowd in Washington, D.C., before he gives an important speech.

## Dr. King's Dream

Dr. King wanted all people to be free under the law. He wanted laws that were fair to everyone. He dreamed that people of every color would get along.



“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When we visit his memorial, we remember Dr. King and his dream of fair laws and free people. We carry on the work that Dr. King began.

## Glossary

<b>laws</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	rules or sets of rules made by a government (p. 6)
<b>memorial</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	something that represents the memory of a person, place, thing, or event (p. 4)
<b>peaceful</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	without physical fighting (p. 10)
<b>protested</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	showed strong disagreement (p. 11)
<b>racism</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the belief that one race is better than another; unequal treatment based on such a belief (p. 6)
<b>separate</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	set or kept apart (p. 7)

# Dr. King's Memorial

A *Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book*

Word Count: 412

## Connections

### Writing and Art

Write a paragraph about why it was important for Dr. King to make changes in a peaceful way.

### Social Studies

Learn more about Dr. King's life. Make a timeline that includes five important events from his life.



Visit [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)  
for thousands of books and materials.