

For The Teacher

Thank you for purchasing my Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Informational Text and Activity Pack. All activities have been designed with an eye toward clarity, student engagement and effectiveness at addressing the following Common Core State Standards:

Grade 4: Reading Informational Text Standards 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.10

Writing Standards: 4.7, 4.8, 4.10

Language Standards: 4.6

Grade 5: Reading Informational Text Standards 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.10

Writing Standards: 5.7, 5.8, 5.10

Language Standards: 5.6

Grade 6: Reading Informational Text Standards 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.10

Reading History Standards: 6-8.1, 6-8.4, 6-8.10

Writing Standards: 6.7, 6.8, 6.10

Language Standards: 6.6

Grade 7: Reading Informational Text Standards 7.1, 7.3, 7.10

Reading History Standards: 6-8.1, 6-8.4, 6-8.10

Writing Standards: 7.7, 7.8, 7.10

Language Standards: 7.6

This package is designed with options in mind. You may choose to have your students do all of the activities, or just those you have selected. The research sheet may be used as a standalone or as planning for a paragraph or longer piece of writing. The dream page makes a nice bulletin board display if you wish or could be stapled into a class booklet. You may provide your students with the glossary or have them research the meanings of words using the enclosed 'Dig Into' packet for close reading, or a method of your own design. Whatever you choose, I hope and your students find the activities to be fun and a great way to learn about an inspirational American hero!

Name _____

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated in the United States on the third Monday of January each year. It is a recognized holiday in all fifty states. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr. and why is there a holiday to celebrate his life and accomplishments?

Martin's Childhood

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the first son of Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Martin had an older sister and a younger brother. Martin's name at birth was Michael King. His father too was named Michael King at that time. In 1934, Martin's father chose to change his name and his son's in honor of Martin Luther, a famous German minister of the 16th Century.

As a child Martin enjoyed singing and was encouraged by his mother who was a church organist, singer and choir director. She took Martin to many churches to sing. Martin also joined the junior choir at his own church.

Martin became friends with a boy whose father owned a business near Martin's home. When the boys were age six they attended different schools due to **segregation**, a separation that occurred because Martin was black and his friend was white. Martin eventually lost this friend when the friend's father no longer allowed them to play together.

Martin became well known for his public speaking ability when he was a student at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta. Martin was an excellent student and skipped two grades, entering college at the young age of 15.

Why do you think so many people, including many who were not black, attended the March on Washington? Use information from the text to support your answer.

In his 'I Have a Dream' speech, Martin said that thought people should be judged by their character, not their skin color. What do you think he meant by this?

Choose two of the character traits listed below. For each that you choose, explain why it describes Martin.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| adventurous | artistic | humble | successful | smart |
| brave | studious | bold | intelligent | wise |
| trustworthy | courageous | considerate | daring | proud |
| serious | respectful | generous | energetic | |

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for a better future. What is your dream for the future? How would you make the world a better place? Make a poster and caption in the space below.

_____’s Dream

SAMPLE

Name _____

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
True or False?**

- _____ Martin was born in Savannah, Georgia.
- _____ Martin was an only child.
- _____ Singing was something Martin enjoyed.
- _____ Martin was not a very good student.
- _____ Martin earned three degrees during his lifetime.
- _____ Martin became a church pastor in 1964.
- _____ Rosa Parks was the only black woman to refuse to give up her seat on the bus to a white person.
- _____ Martin's house was bombed.
- _____ The bus boycott made Martin famous.
- _____ Everyone agreed with the work Martin was doing on civil rights protests.
- _____ Martin was only jailed a few times in his life.
- _____ More than 200,000 people attended the March on Washington in 1963.
- _____ Martin gave a famous speech in which he mentioned his children.
- _____ Martin received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- _____ Martin's life ended at the age of 35.
- _____ In 1983, President George H.W. Bush signed a bill creating the official holiday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.