

Who was  
Martin Luther  
King?



Martin Luther King Jr. Was one of America's great leaders.



He spoke out against laws which kept black people segregated, and led protests and marches demanding fair laws for all people.

Have you heard of him? What do you know?





Martin Luther King Jr. was one of three children. He was born on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a pastor and his mother had been a teacher.

Young Martin liked sports. He enjoyed baseball, basketball and American football. He also liked singing and often sang in the Ebenezer Baptist Church where his father was the pastor.



Martin grew up in a time when people were treated differently because of the colour of their skin. This was called **segregation** and Martin couldn't understand why the colour of anyone's skin should be important.

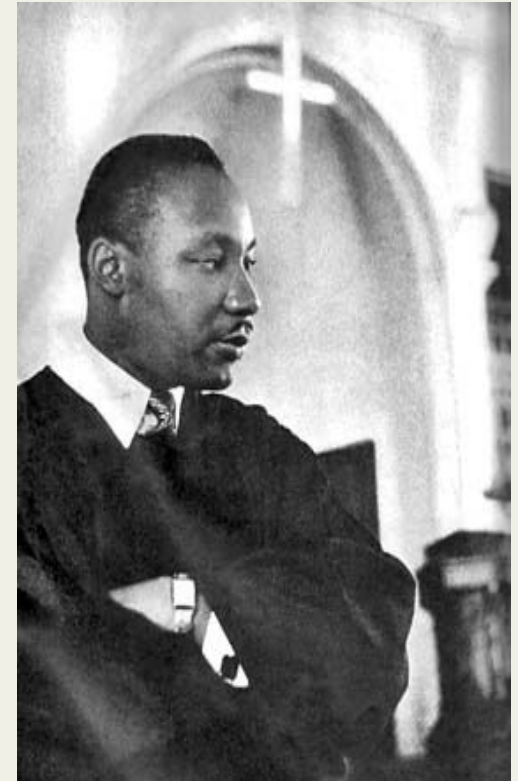
How does this make you feel?  
Is this fair?



In Atlanta, and elsewhere in the USA, there were signs which read 'White Only'. This meant black people were not allowed in. These signs were on parks, hotels, restaurants and even schools. There were also restrictions on jobs.

Martin worked hard at his studies and went to college when he was just fifteen years old.

While he was at college he decided to become a pastor, just like his father.



After college he met and married Coretta Scott King. They had four children together.



Martin's first job was as a pastor in a place called Montgomery in Alabama in 1954.

One year later, **Rosa Parks** was arrested in Montgomery for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. The 'White Only' section of the bus had been full and she was in one of the seats just behind.



Martin led a protest. Black people throughout the city refused to ride the buses. This was called the **Montgomery Bus Boycott.**



Many of Martin's followers were very angry and wanted to fight. Martin wanted things to be resolved peacefully. He encouraged black people to try to get along with white people.



The '**Montgomery Bus Boycott**' lasted for a year. When it ended there were no more 'White Only' sections on buses. People could sit where ever they wanted to.

In 1960, Martin moved back to Atlanta. He continued to lead peaceful protests for equal rights and to stop segregation. He wanted everyone to be treated equally. He was arrested many times, even though he was a **peaceful** man.

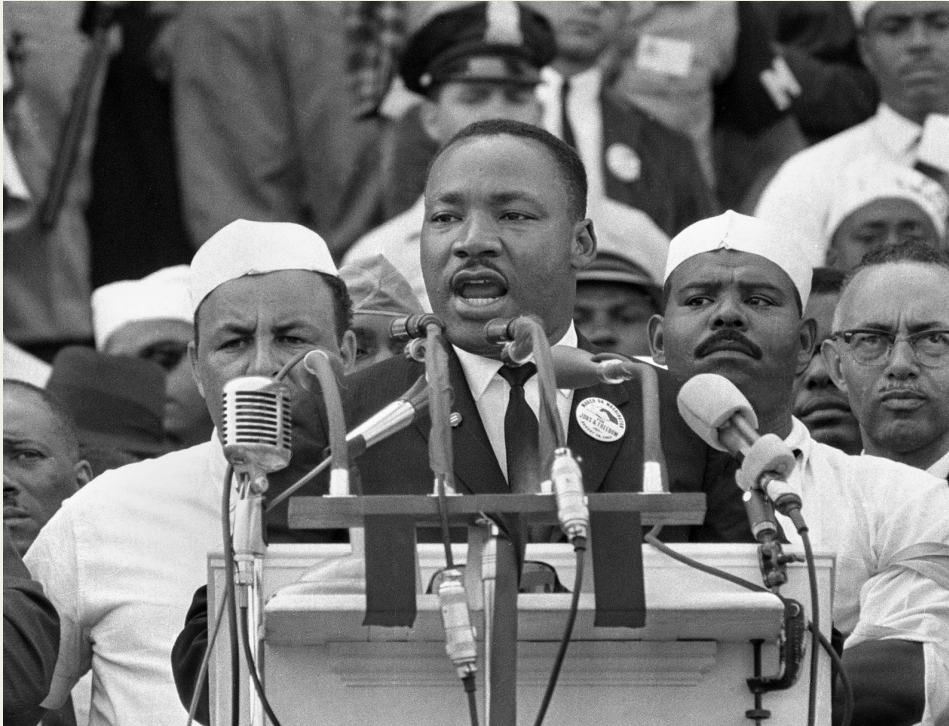


**In 1963** Martin led his biggest march of all – the **March on Washington**. More than two hundred thousand people, of all colours, followed him. It was here that he gave his most famous speech...



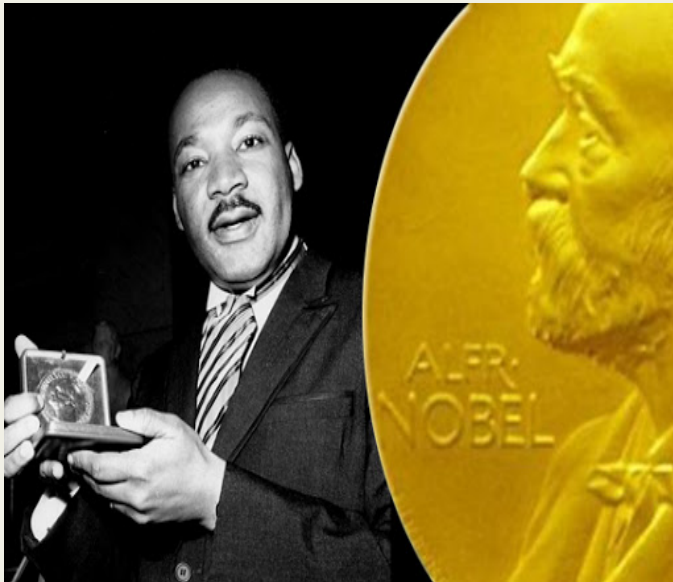


# I have a dream....



***“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.”***

What does this mean? Is how you treat others more important than what you look like?

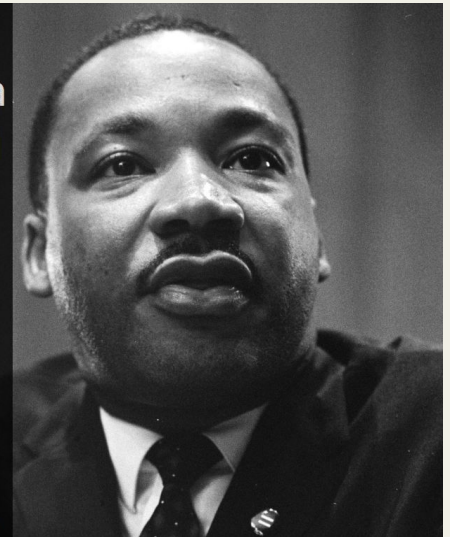


In **1964**, Martin was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** – a great honour. The USA was changing. New laws were passed and ‘Whites Only’ signs were against the law.

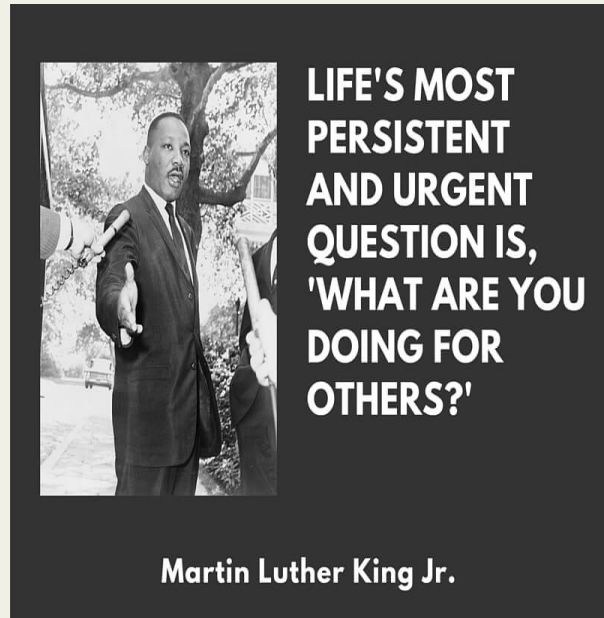
In some areas, however, there were still problems. Although Martin told his followers to protest peacefully there were sometimes outbreaks of violence.

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



In **April 1968**, Martin travelled to Memphis, Tennessee. He planned to march for equal pay for white and black refuse workers.



But, on **April 4<sup>th</sup>** Martin Luther King was shot by a man called James Earl Ray. Sadly he died.

The **third Monday in January every year** is Martin Luther King Day in the USA. It's a national holiday.













**I Dream...**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Use bullets to write facts about Dr. King in the boxes below.

# all about MLK

Early Life	Education
Life's Work	"I Have A Dream" Speech
Interesting Fact	

## All about Martin Luther King Jr.

Write a fact file about Martin Luther King Jr. You can use this sheet or you can just write on paper. You should use bullet points – sentences that start on a new line. Remember when we write about someone's life we always write about events in the order they happened.

# THE CRAYON BOX

While walking through a toy store the day before today,  
I overheard a crayon box with many things to say.

"I don't like Red!" said Yellow, and Green said "Nor do I!"  
"And no one here likes Orange but no one knows just why."

"We are a box of crayons that doesn't get along,"  
Said Blue to all the others "Something here is wrong".

Well, I bought that box of crayons and took it home with me,  
And laid out all the colors so the crayons all could see.

They watched me as I colored with Red and Blue and Green,  
And Black and White and Orange and every color in between.

They watched as Green became the grass and Blue became the sky,  
The Yellow sun was shining bright on white clouds drifting by.

Colors changing as they touched becoming something new,  
They watched me as I colored - they watched me till I was through.

And when I finally finished I began to walk away,  
And as I did the crayon box had something more to say.

"I do like Red!" said Yellow, and Green said, "So do I!"  
And Blue you were terrific! So high up in the sky!

"We are a box of crayons each one of us unique,  
But when we get together the picture is more complete."

What do you  
think?

Read this poem. What  
do you think about it?  
What is its message?  
Talk to your grown up  
about it.



Well done Year 2. You  
are amazing!  
I can't wait to see  
your work.

A white rectangular box containing the handwritten text "great job" in a black, cursive font. To the right of the word "job" is a simple smiley face drawn with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.