

Martin Luther King Jr. Reading

Martin Luther King Jr. went on to organise other non-violent demonstrations against the unfair treatment of Black people. In 1963, he led a huge march on Washington DC, the US capital. The march on Washington involved 250,000 people travelling to the Lincoln Memorial (Abraham Lincoln was the American president who abolished slavery). Here, in front of the enormous crowd, King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Here are some short extracts:



“I have a dream that my four little 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.”

“I have a dream that one day little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.”

Did You Know?

In 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end racial prejudice in the United States.

Rules in America began to change. The US Government brought in laws to ensure equal rights for all US citizens and to give everybody the chance to vote.

Tragically, on 4th April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated while standing on a hotel balcony, by a man who disagreed with King’s beliefs about fighting racism. His funeral was attended by 300,000 mourners.

In 1983, US President Ronald Reagan declared that the third Monday in January each year would be a holiday to remember King’s achievements and the ideas of living in a world which was fair for everyone, no matter what the colour of their skin.

Questions

1. Find and copy one word which means the same as separation based on race.
2. In your own words, explain Martin Luther King Jr.'s aim?
3. Give three examples of how Black people were treated differently from White people.
4. Why do you think that Martin Luther King Jr. believed it best to carry out non-violent demonstrations?
5. What do you think Martin Luther King Jr. mean when he says he hopes his children will be judged by the "content of their character"?
6. Which definition best fits the word assassinate? Tick one.
 - to attend a funeral
 - to be a president
 - to kill an important person for religious or political belief
7. How was Martin Luther King Jr. killed?
8. Why do you think President Reagan declared a public holiday in memory of Martin Luther King?
9. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was well attended. Why do you think this was the case?
10. "The time is always right to do what is right." Explain Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote in your own words.