

# Martin Luther King

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While reading

Pages 1–7

- 1 Look through this section of the book quickly. Find the dates in the box and match them with the things that happened.

1807	1865	1896	February 15, 1948
	May 16, 1954	December 1, 1955	
	December 1955	August 28, 1963	

- King became a preacher. ....
  - King made his 'I have a dream' speech. ....
  - The United States passed a law that accepted segregation in all states. ....
  - Rosa Parks was arrested on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. ....
  - Slave ships became illegal in America. ....
  - Segregation in United States schools became illegal. ....
  - Slavery ended in the United States. ....
  - The civil rights campaign in the United States began. ....
- 2 Choose the correct answer.
- King missed two grades in school because ....
    - 1) he travelled with his father.
    - 2) he had to go to a school for black children.
    - 3) he did very well in school.
  - King finally decided to become a preacher because of ....
    - 1) Dr Mays.
    - 2) Daddy King.
    - 3) his mother.
  - King's opinions about white people changed because ....
    - 1) white people in the South were kind to him.
    - 2) he studied the ideas of an Indian teacher.
    - 3) he was voted president of his class.
  - Slaves were brought to America because white people needed ....
    - 1) farm workers.
    - 2) workers on ships.
    - 3) workers in the North.

- 3 Complete these sentences with a word from the box.

black	changed	free	poor	white
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After the North won the war, African-Americans in the South were finally (a) ..... but they were very (b) ..... Jim Crow laws did not let (c) ..... people go to (d) ..... schools. African-Americans organized the NAACP because they thought the Jim Crow laws had to be (e) .....

Pages 8–14

- 4 Answer these questions.

- What job did Coretta Scott have before she married King?
- What job did she have after they were married?
- Why did she return to the South with Martin?
- How many children did she and Martin have?
- Why was she worried about Martin?

- 5 Why do you think Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white passenger? Talk with a friend or write a paragraph with your own ideas.

- 6 Which of the following were for the Montgomery bus boycott? Which were against?

the bus company   the KKK  
the black taxi companies   the politicians  
the MIA   the police   world opinion

- 7 Answer these questions.

- Why did Henry Thoreau refuse to pay money on his earnings to the US government?
- What did Mahatma Gandhi help to win with his peaceful protests?

Pages 15–21

- 8 What happened first? Put the sentences in the right order and number them, 1–10.

- ☐ King and his wife see suffering in Nigeria.
- ☐ King and Abernathy visit Richard Nixon.
- ☐ King appears on the cover of *Time* magazine.
- ☐ A black woman tries to kill King.
- ☐ Ralph Abernathy's house is bombed.
- ☐ King and other black leaders start the SCLC.

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- g ☐ King chooses to spend two weeks in jail.  
 h ☐ King tries to speak to Abernathy in a court room.  
 i ☐ President Eisenhower refuses to help King.  
 j ☐ King and his wife fly to Ghana.

## 9 Answer these questions.

- a Why were King's arrests "good for his campaign"?  
 b Why were King and the students given steak for their first meal in prison in October 1960?  
 c Why was King worried when he was taken to Reidsville State Prison?  
 d Why didn't King help John F. Kennedy's campaign for president?

## Pages 22–29

### 10 Find the right name.

- a The President of the United States in 1962 .....  
 b A Birmingham preacher .....  
 c An African-American student .....  
 d Police chief, Birmingham, Alabama .....  
 e State leader, Alabama .....  
 f State leader, Arkansas .....  
 g A politician in Washington, D.C. ....  
 1) Bull Connor  
 2) Fred Shuttlesworth  
 3) George Wallace  
 4) John F. Kennedy  
 5) James Meredith  
 6) Robert Kennedy  
 7) Orval Faubus

### 11 Answer these questions.

- a Why did President Eisenhower send soldiers to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957?  
 b In King's letter from Birmingham Jail, what does "Wait!" mean for black people?  
 c What did people think when they saw U.S. policemen and dogs attack black children on a protest march?  
 d Why was John F. Kennedy worried about this civil rights bill?  
 e How many whites joined the march on Washington?  
 f Two terrible things followed King's "I have a dream" speech in August 1963. What were they?  
 g Why was Dr Mays' big dinner part of King's dream?

## Pages 30–41

### 12 What happened first? Put the sentences in the right order and number them, 1–8.

- a ☐ King meets President Johnson.  
 b ☐ King and 400 people march to a Selma courthouse.  
 c ☐ King asks protesters around the country to come to Selma.  
 d ☐ President Johnson promises to give all Americans voting rights.  
 e ☐ Police arrest King, Abernathy and hundreds of marchers.  
 f ☐ King writes a letter from Selma Jail.  
 g ☐ President Johnson asks his government to pass the Voting Rights law.  
 h ☐ An African-American protester is killed in front of his parents.

### 13 Complete these sentences with a word from the box.

defend	end	get	give	listen	riot	work
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- a By the middle of the 1960s, many African-Americans did not ..... to King any more.  
 b Malcolm X said that blacks should ..... themselves against the white enemy.  
 c Stokely Carmichael thought that black people and white people could not ..... together.  
 d King did not want people to ..... in the streets.  
 e King wanted President Johnson to ..... the war in Vietnam.  
 f King also wanted President Johnson to ..... jobs to poor people.  
 g President Johnson wanted to ..... information about King's private life.

### 14 There are mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct information.

- a The day before he died, King spoke to workers who wanted more education.  
 b King was killed outside a church.  
 c There were no riots when Americans heard that King was dead.  
 d Only a few people watched King's funeral on television.  
 e King's killer was sent to prison for a year.

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## I Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

books church cloth college gun name  
seats speech

- a King changed his ..... the night before he spoke in Washington, D.C.
- b King's father changed his ..... after a trip to Germany.
- c King loved sports and ..... when he was in school.
- d King graduated from a ..... in the North in 1951.
- e King's first job was at a ..... in Montgomery, Alabama.
- f After he won a prize for a speech, the young King and a teacher were told to give their ..... to white people.
- g On a train, a waiter put a ..... in front of King's face because he was black.
- h After he read Gandhi, King could talk calmly to a white student who had a .....

## 2 Write right (✓) or wrong (X) or it does not say (?)

- a King's father did not want his son to feel like a slave. ☐
- b Slavery in America ended when slave ships were made illegal. ☐
- c After 1865, African-Americans wanted to go to the North. ☐
- d W.E.B. DuBois was against the Jim Crow laws. ☐
- e After 1954, there was no more segregation in the US. ☐
- f The US government decided to help black soldiers buy houses. ☐
- g Ralph Abernathy helped King organize the MIA. ☐

## 3 There are mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct information.

- a King met Coretta Scott in Montgomery.
- b After she married King, Coretta taught and gave the money to the civil rights campaign.
- c On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks gave her seat to a white person on the bus.
- d The KKK was an organization in the South which helped black people.

- e Thoreau was an American lawyer who refused to obey laws that he did not agree with.
- f Gandhi was an Indian who studied law and believed in violent protest.

## 4 Complete these sentences.

- a In 1957, an African leader invited King to visit the country of .....
- b King was attacked in a New York .....
- c Judge Mitchell tried to keep King in .....
- d In 1960, King's father asked people to vote for .....
- e The Freedom Riders rode buses in the South and sat in .....
- f On May 19, 1961, King was worried because people outside Abernathy's church were throwing .....
- g After King phoned him, Robert Kennedy promised to send more .....

## 5 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- a King wrote his letter from Birmingham jail to a group of white policemen. ☐
- b During the Children's March, children were attacked with water and dogs. ☐
- c There were more than 200,000 black marchers in the March on Washington. ☐
- d The men who bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church were sent to prison quickly. ☐
- e At 35, King became the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. ☐

## 6 Underline the correct words.

- a King asked to put 400 African-Americans *in white schools* / *on the voting list* in Selma, Alabama.
- b On "Bloody Sunday", the violence by *police* / *protesters* in Selma was reported around the country.
- c King spoke about voting rights on the steps of the *courthouse* / *state building* in Montgomery, Alabama.
- d Malcolm X was *against* / *for* King's peaceful protests.
- e Stokely Carmichael became the leader of the *Freedom Riders* / *the SNCC*.
- f King said that the riot in Watts happened because people were *against the war* / *poor and hopeless*.
- g There were more *riots* / *wars* in the summer of 1967.