

Martin Luther
King Jr.
Grades 4-8



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MLK Jr. Stor

To be **equal** means to be the same. No two people are ever the same. But all people should be treated the same. All people should be treated fairly.

When Martin was growing up in the south, blacks were not treated the same as white people. They were not treated fairly. For example:

Black people could not eat in the same restaurants as white people.



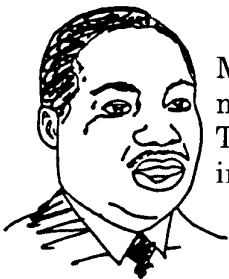
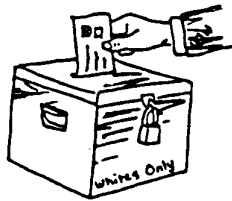
Black children could not go to school with white children.



Black people had to give their seats to white people on buses and trains.



Black people could not vote.



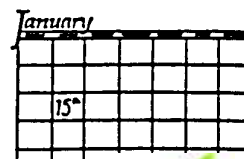
Martin Luther King, Jr., spent his whole life trying to make things better for his people. Slowly, the laws changed. That made some white people very angry. He was even put in jail. But he never stopped working.



Then, in 1968, he went to Memphis, Tennessee, to march with underpaid workers. When he stepped out onto the balcony of his motel room, James Earl Ray saw him and fired his gun. Martin Luther King, Jr., died that day. It was April 4th.



His birthday, January 15th, is now a national holiday. On that day every year, we celebrate him and all he did for Americans, both black and white. He hoped that someday all people would be treated equally in this country. We must continue his work and make that dream come true.



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Secret Cod

In all the words below, the letters have been uniformly swapped for other letters. For example, A might be represented by an F or a C might be a G. Crack the code to come up with each word. Remember, the secret code is the same for every word.

1. ZXMMWL _____
2. ZMTOMTCISQA _____
3. YOMCK _____
4. NPZISWM _____
5. XOMNPYSWM _____
6. KSASZIMO _____
7. GQFWQII _____
8. MEPCD _____
9. OSTLIZ _____
10. DSGMOIF _____

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Secret Code Answer Ke

In all the words below, the letters have been uniformly swapped for other letters. For example, A might be represented by an F or a C might be a G. Crack the code to come up with each word. Remember, the secret code is the same for every word.

1. ZXMMWL Speech
2. ZMTOMTCISQA Segregation
3. YOMCK Dream
4. NPZISWM Justice
5. XOMNPYSWM Prejudice
6. KSASZIMO Minister
7. GQFWQII Boycott
8. MEPCD Equal
9. OSTLIZ Rights
10. DSGMOIF Liberty

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
C	G	W	Y	M	V	T	L	S	N	U	D	K	A	Q	X	E	O	Z	I	P	R	J	H	F	B



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Sentence Builder

Use each word in a sentence. Write your sentence in the space provided.

1. Speech _____

2. Segregation _____

3. Dream _____

4. Justice _____

5. Prejudice _____

6. Minister _____

7. Boycott _____

8. Equal _____



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Sentence Builders, cont'

9. Rights _____

10. Liberty _____



Name _____ Date _____

All About MLK Jr. Qui

Instructions: Select the correct answer from the choices listed.

- 1) In what year was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?
 - a) 1960
 - b) 1963
 - c) 1968
 - d) 1971

- 2) Where did Rosa Parks become famous?
 - a) At a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina
 - b) At a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas
 - c) On a bus in Montgomery, Alabama
 - d) On a march in Selma, Alabama

- 3) Which president signed the first major civil rights act of this century?
 - a) John F. Kennedy
 - b) Lyndon B. Johnson
 - c) Richard M. Nixon
 - d) Ronald Reagan

- 4) Which president signed the law creating the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday?
 - a) John F. Kennedy
 - b) Lyndon B. Johnson
 - c) Richard M. Nixon
 - d) Ronald Reagan

- 5) What was the name of King's first book?
 - a) "Stride Toward Freedom"
 - b) "Dreamer"
 - c) "Why We Can't Wait"
 - d) "We Shall Overcome"

- 6) Where was the tactic of the sit-in protest first used?
 - a) At a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina
 - b) At a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas
 - c) On a bus in Birmingham, Alabama
 - d) On a march in Selma, Alabama

- 7) Where did King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech?
 - a) At Ebenezer Baptist Church
 - b) In front of the Atlanta City Hall
 - c) At the Lincoln Memorial
 - d) At the Nobel Prize ceremony

- 8) What foreign figure has King been compared to?
 - a) Charles de Gaulle
 - b) Mohandas Gandhi
 - c) Albert Nobel
 - d) Nelson Mandela



Name _____ Date _____

All About MLK Jr. Quiz, cont'

- 9) What year was the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday first observed?
- a) 1969
 - b) 1973
 - c) 1980
 - d) 1986
- 10) Why was King arrested in 1956?
- a) He was protesting segregated department store facilities in Birmingham.
 - b) He was driving too fast.
 - c) He sat in at a Woolworth's lunch counter.
 - d) He assaulted a police officer.



Name _____ Date _____

All About MLK Jr. Quiz Answer Ke

Instructions: Select the correct answer from the choices listed.

- 1) In what year was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?
 - a) 1960
 - b) 1963
 - c) **1968**
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Name _____ Date _____

All About MLK Jr. Quiz Answer Key, cont'

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 - d) He assaulted a police officer.



Name _____ Date _____

The Life of MLK Jr. Quiz

Instructions: Read the statement below and decide whether it is True or False.

- 1) Martin Luther King Jr. was born in 1929 TRUE FALSE
- 2) MLK was born in Spencer, West Virginia. TRUE FALSE
- 3) It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. TRUE FALSE
- 4) MLK was never arrested. TRUE FALSE
- 5) MLK organized a massive march on Washington on August 28, 1964, which brought more than 200,00 people together. TRUE FALSE
- 6) MLK never won the Nobel Peace Prize. TRUE FALSE
- 7) MLK used Gandhi's ideas and approach to help African-Americans gain their just equal position in American society. TRUE FALSE
- 8) Many people feared and hated MLK. TRUE FALSE
- 9) They have never convicted the person who assassinated MLK. TRUE FALSE
- 10) On April 4, 1968, MLK was shot and killed by an assassin. TRUE FALS



Name _____ Date _____

The Life of MLK Jr. Quiz Answer Ke

Instructions: Read the statement below and decide whether it is True or False.

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Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Word Scrambl

Instructions: Unscramble the letters to correctly spell the word.

1) peesch _____

2) eluthr _____

3) merad _____

4) ujiscet _____

5) nisiterm _____

6) hitsgr _____

7) gretaseniog _____

8) ybliret _____

9) amintr _____

10) ycobott _____



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Word Scramble Answer Ke

Instructions: Unscramble the letters to correctly spell the word.

- 1) peesch speech
- 2) eluthr luther
- 3) merad dream
- 4) ujiscet justice
- 5) nisiterm minister
- 6) hitsgr rights
- 7) gretaseniog segregation
- 8) ybliret liberty
- 9) amintr martin
- 10) ycobott boycott



MLK Jr. Qui

Instructions: Select the correct answer from the choices listed.

- 1) What was the purpose of the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 - a) to lower bus fares
 - b) to stop the city's segregated seating policy on busses
 - c) to provide better pay for bus drivers

- 2) What was a key factor to victory in the Montgomery bus boycott?
 - a) the governor of Alabama ordering the busses To desegregate
 - b) the orderly and nonviolent approach of the demonstrations
 - c) the assassination of President Kennedy

- 3) King often went to jail during his life. Why was he so willing to go?
 - a) he believed his cause was just and was willing to go to jail for it
 - b) he knew the President would get him out
 - c) he wanted to see how the police treated black Americans in jails

- 4) What did King learn on his trip to India?
 - a) he had little support for his movement there
 - b) that people there had forgotten Ghandi's work
 - c) he reaffirmed his belief that Ghandi's philosophy of nonviolence was indeed powerful

- 5) What was a "sit-in" and what was its purpose?
 - a) people sat on busy public roads to protest segregation policies
 - b) people occupied university administration buildings to protest segregation policies
 - c) people sat on busses and refused to leave to protest segregation policies

- 6) What did the Freedom Riders do and what was their purpose?
 - a) they were black and white Americans who rode on Harley Davidson motorcycles to declare all states desegregated.
 - b) they were black and white American protestors who sat together on interstate busses travelling through states with bus segregation laws
 - c) they were black and white hitchhikers who traveled through segregated states protesting segregation laws

- 7) How was Malcolm X different from King?
 - a) he was willing to use any means necessary, including violence to free black Americans from white dominance
 - b) he was a militant who felt guns were the answer to freedom
 - c) he was a member of the Black Panthers



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Quiz, cont'

- 8) What was the purpose of the march led by James Meredith to Chicago?
- a) it was a march in support of desegregated restaurants
 - b) it was a march in support of improving poor economic conditions of black Americans
 - c) it was a march in support of voting rights for black Americans
- 9) What three things happened which made Martin Luther King more of a national and world-wide figure in 1964?
- a) he met the President of the United States, toured India, and gave seminars all over the world
 - b) he visited India, gave a world-televised speech at the United Nations, and went on a world-wide seminar tour
 - c) he received the Nobel Peace Prize, witnessed the signing of the Civil Rights Act, and was featured on the cover of "Time" magazine
- 10) How did King's position on the Vietnam War make him less popular with mainstream Americans?
- a) his anti-war stance made him appear unpatriotic
 - b) his pro-war position angered protestors who Supported his civil rights campaign
 - c) his anti-war stance angered Lyndon Johnson who was a popular President



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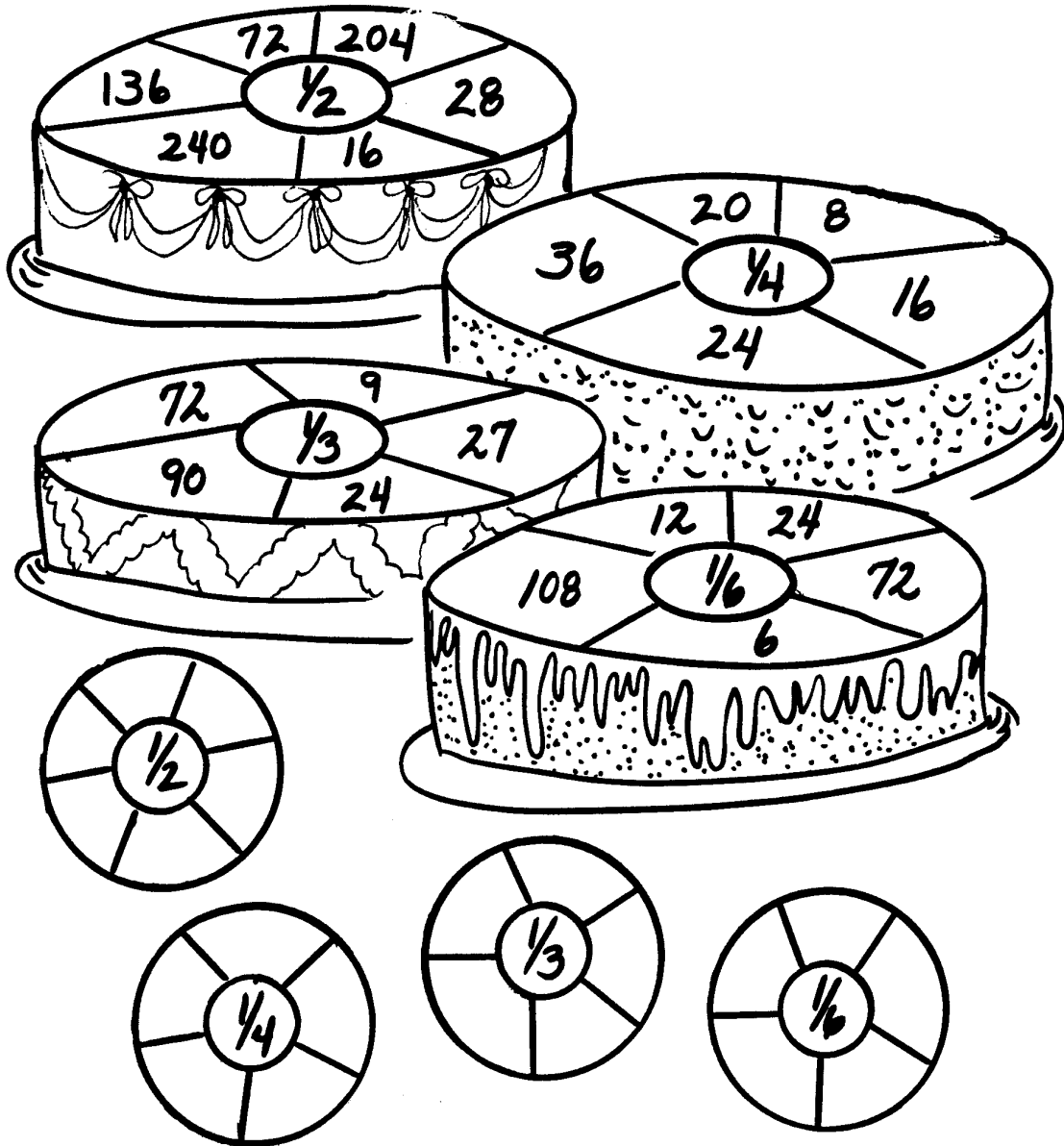
MLK Jr. Quiz Answer Key, cont'

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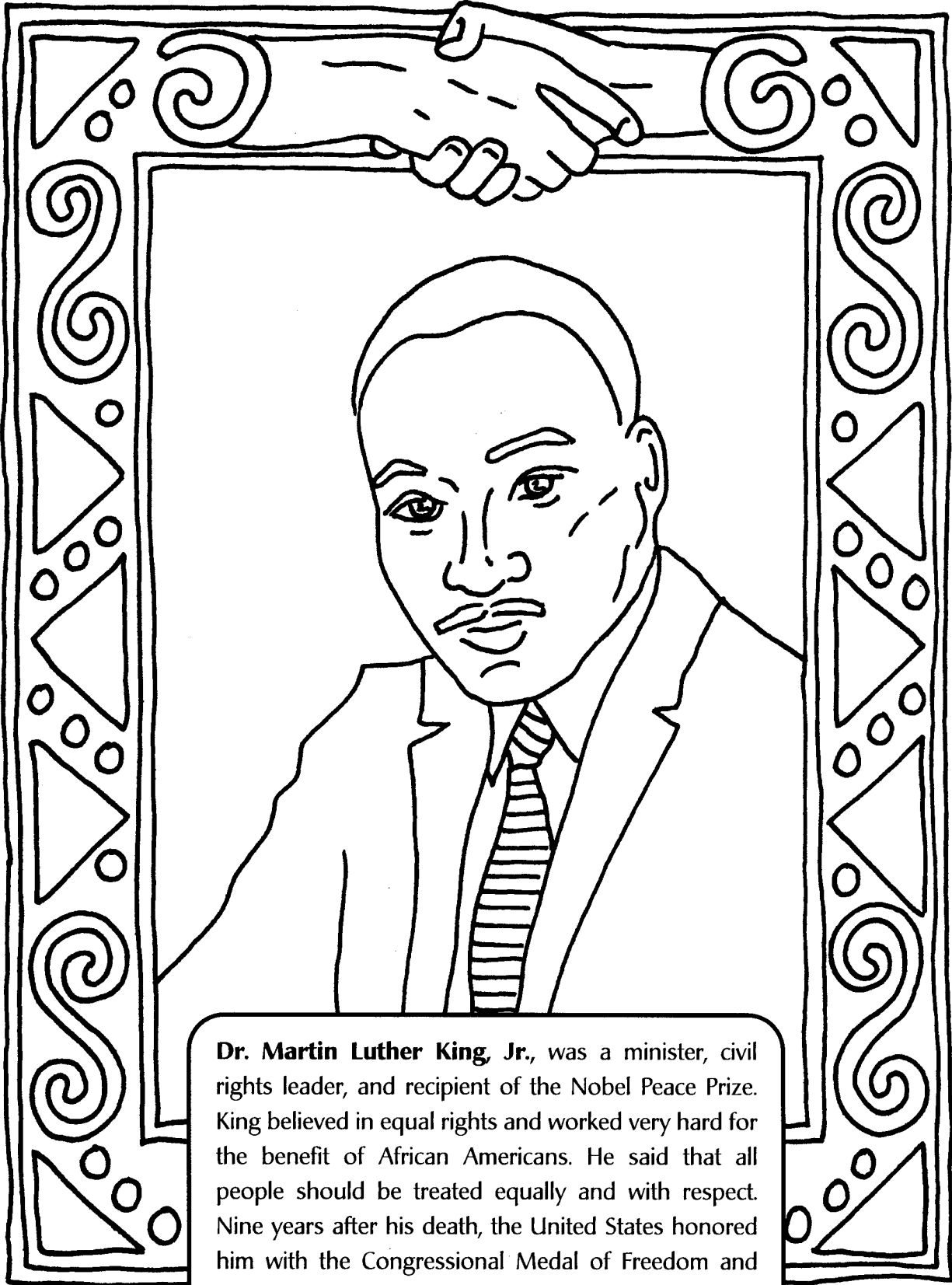


Happy Birthday to MLK Jr

Divide each cake piece by the fraction in the center.
Write your answers on the plates below.



MLK Jr. Coloring Pag

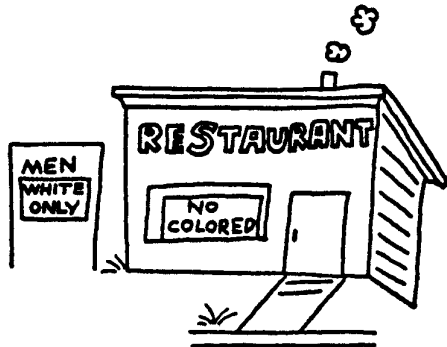


Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a minister, civil rights leader, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. King believed in equal rights and worked very hard for the benefit of African Americans. He said that all people should be treated equally and with respect. Nine years after his death, the United States honored him with the Congressional Medal of Freedom and declared his birthday a national holiday.



The Story of MLK Jr

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. He became a minister like his father, Martin Luther King, Sr.



2. Many laws in southern states were not fair to African-Americans. They could not vote, so they could not change the laws.

3. It was not possible for one person alone to change this.

4. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a powerful speaker. People listened to him. "Many people working together can change things," he said.



5. "Use love, not violence," he said. He made speeches. He wrote books. He helped black people to register to vote.



6. He was arrested and put into jail. When he got out of jail, he continued to make speeches.

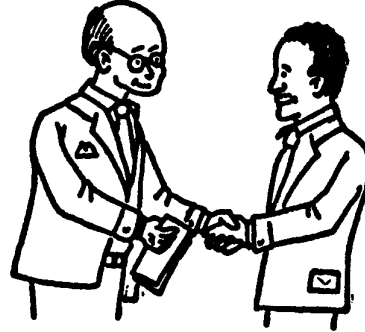


7. It was dangerous work. His house was bombed. Schools and churches were bombed too.

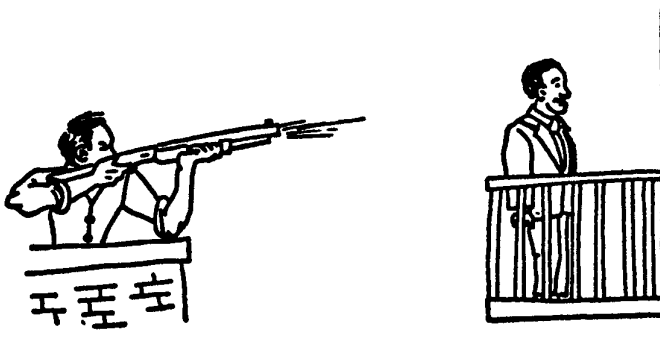


The Story of MLK Jr., cont'

8. In 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. received one of the world's greatest honors, the Nobel Peace Prize.



9. He worked for all poor people, white and black, Indian and Mexican. He spoke against the war in Vietnam.

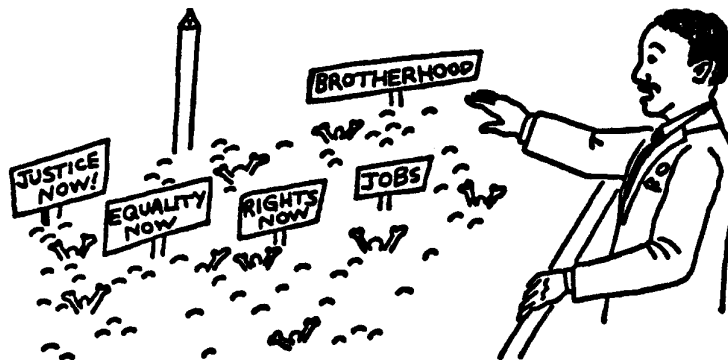


10. On April 4, 1968, King was in Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march for poor workers. An assassin shot him and he died.

11. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great American. His most famous speech was at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.

12. “. . . I have a dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will . . . live out the true meaning of its creed, ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal’

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



14. Many laws have changed since 1963, but Martin Luther King's dream is still a dream. There is a lot of work for all of us to do.



The Story of MLK Jr., cont'

- I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

Jr. = junior	violence	famous
be born; is/was born	register to vote	dream
minister	arrest	nation
Sr. = senior	jail	meaning
law	continue	creed
southern	dangerous	true/truth
fair	bomb	self-evident
change	receive	equal
vote	honor	create
possible	Nobel Peace Prize	judge
alone	war in Vietnam	skin
powerful	lead/led	content
speaker	assassin	character
work together	shoot/shot	

- II. Choose the best answer:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a _____ like his father. (minister, lawyer)
2. Black people could not _____ so they could not change the laws. (work, vote)
3. "Use _____, not violence," said Martin Luther King, Jr. (guns, love)
4. It was dangerous work. His _____ was bombed. (house, book)
5. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel _____ Prize. (Peace, speech)
6. In 1968, an assassin _____ Martin Luther King, Jr. (arrested, killed)
7. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that all people would be treated as _____. (equals, children)

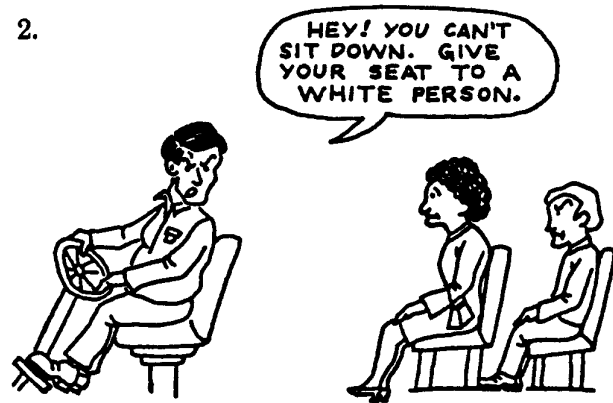


The Montgomery Bus Boycot

1. One day Rosa Parks got on a bus. She was very tired. She sat down.



2.



3.



4.



5. The police came. They arrested Rosa.



6. Black people were angry.

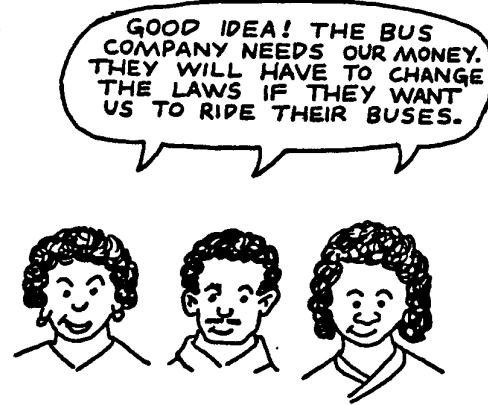


The Montgomery Bus Boycott, cont'

7



8.



9. So black people stopped riding the buses. They walked to work.



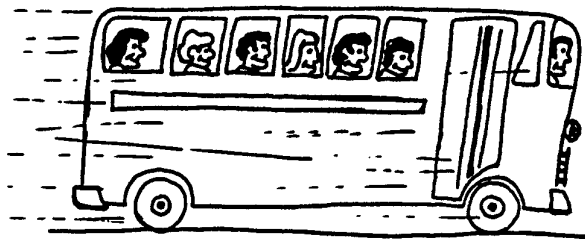
10. "That's not fair!" said the bus owners. The police arrested Martin Luther King and put him in jail.



11. The black people would not ride the buses.



12. After one year, the law changed. Black and white people could sit in any seat on the bus. It was a great day for all people.



The Montgomery Bus Boycott, cont'

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

bus	arrest	walk
tired	angry	work
black	good idea	fair
white	bus company	owners
person	change	jail
right here	law	lose/lost
police	stop	seat
call	ride/rode	

II. Choose the best answer:

1. Rosa Parks was _____. (black, white)
2. She sat in the _____ of the bus. (front, back)
3. The bus driver called _____. (Martin Luther King, the police)
4. Martin Luther King said, "We can _____ to work." (ride the bus, walk)
5. The police put Martin Luther King _____. (in jail, in the front of the bus)
6. The bus companies lost a lot of _____. (buses, money)
7. After one _____ the law changed and now people can sit in any seat on a bus. (month, year)



Martin Luther King Jr. (4-8) is compiled from:

- *ESL Teacher's Holiday Activities Kit* by Elizabeth Claire. Published by CARE.
- *Math Activities for Every Month of the School Year* by Sonia M. Helton. Published by CARE.
- *African-American Awareness for Younger Children* by Evia L. Davis. Published by Good Year.

