

Martin Luther
King Jr.
Grades K-3



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"Dreams" Poetry Uni

Science Teaching Activities

Skill: Ecology



- Protecting the ecology of the earth is a dream of many people. Collect newspaper articles and group reports of efforts in your community to preserve the environment. Display them in a collage.
- Display a world map and collect articles about ecological efforts beyond your community. On the map, find the locations of these efforts. Categorize the efforts. Which areas have recycling facilities? Do any have regularly scheduled clean-up days? What legislative action has taken place?
- Create your own T-shirt design promoting ecology.
- Evaluate your own efforts toward ecology using Idea Sheet 6–8. Assess your daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly ecological efforts. What recommendations would you make to yourself?

Language Arts Teaching Activities

Skill: Application

- Dreams are goals. Using Idea Sheet 6–5, describe a dream you might have for yourself, your country, and the world. Put possible obstacles aside and let your imagination soar!
- Choose one of the dreams described from the previous idea and list the steps that would be necessary to accomplish the dream.
- Paint a large picture depicting your dream.
- Rate the difficulty of accomplishing your dream by considering the time, the materials, and the assistance that would be needed. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = little, 10 = a lot), how does your dream rate? What advice might you have for yourself?

Math Teaching Activities

Skill: Number Patterns

- Consider the number pattern people create when they spread ideas and dreams: One person tells one person, then two know about the idea. Two people each tell another person, then four know about the idea. If you continued this pattern with the number of students in your classroom, how many people would know about the dream?
- What examples of community effort in your area reflect the pattern in the preceding activity? What problems in your community might be resolved if different service groups coordinated efforts? Categorize your community's needs by the number of groups needed to work together on the problem. For example,

Adopt a Highway Program: One business or other group takes responsibility for cleaning up every 2 miles of assigned highway.

Our area has

_____ miles of community roads.

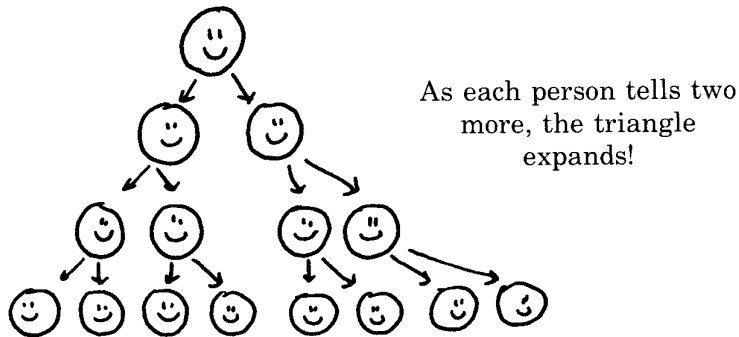
Our community would need the support of _____ groups.



"Dreams" Poetry Unit, cont'

- Use geometric shapes to create a mathematical design that shows how this community problem-solving process builds wide involvement.

1, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc.



- What types of obstacles might be encountered with community problem solving? Use Idea Sheet 6-6 to organize your ideas. Compose a supportive editorial that contains logical statements showing how obstacles can be overcome. For example,

If we were to have bad weather on a community clean-up day,
then we would encourage participants to dress appropriately and still help out!

Social Studies Teaching Activities

Skill: Brotherhood

- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream was world brotherhood. Compose a resolution for school brotherhood and share it with your principal.
- Compare Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech, "I Have a Dream," with Langston Hughes's poem. Use the Venn diagram on Idea Sheet 6-7 to show similarities and differences.
- Publish "school spirit" booklets or posters to promote a brotherhood goal for your school. Share them with other classes.
- Write questions to use in evaluating how well the school brotherhood goals are being implemented. Answer them as a self-inventory, and plan how to improve your efforts. For example,

Do I try to play with everyone?
Do I offer to help those who have a question?



"Dreams" Poem

by Langston Hughe

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.



"Dreams" Idea Sheet 6-

Dreams

Directions: Dreams are goals. Describe a dream you might have for yourself, your country, and the world.



My dream for myself . . .



My dream for my country . . .



My dream for the world . . .

BONUS CHALLENGE! Choose one of your dreams and, on the back of this sheet, describe the steps necessary to accomplish that dream.



"Dreams" Idea Sheet 6-

Dreams

Directions: What difficulties might occur when a community works together to solve a problem? Think of a community problem and steps to solve it. Then think of difficulties that might occur. Finally, write an editorial that contains logical statements showing how the difficulties could be overcome.

Community Problem:

Steps to Solve It:

Difficulties:

Editorial:



"Dreams" Idea Sheet 6-

Name _____

Dreams

Directions: Compare Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech, "I Have a Dream," with Langston Hughes's poem, "Dreams." List attributes particular to each on the appropriate side of the Venn diagram. List similarities in the middle.

Dreams

I Have a Dream



"Dreams" Idea Sheets 6-

Dreams

Directions: Evaluate yourself. List your daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly efforts toward ecology. What recommendations would you make to yourself?

DAILY

WEEKLY

MONTHLY

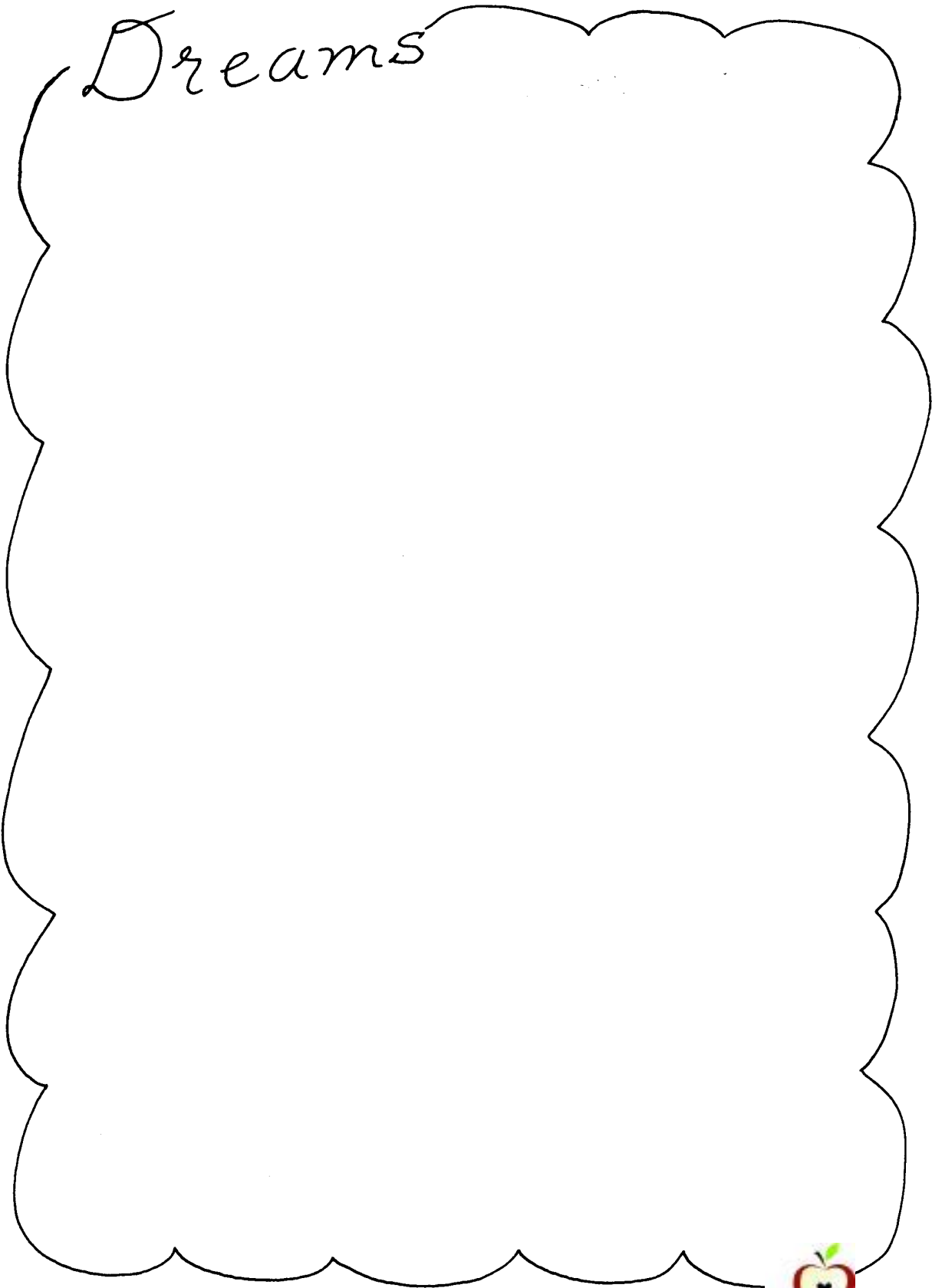
YEARLY

MY RECOMMENDATIONS TO MYSELF:



"Dreams" Idea Open-Ended Idea Shee

Dreams



Ways to Honor Martin Luther King Jr

On January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated as a national holiday. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a black minister who believed in working peacefully to change the laws. He came from a family that required all the children to be home for suppertime—no matter what they were doing. Suppertime was a special time of day for sharing what each family member was doing and thinking. How do we spend suppertime at home? Could we take a lesson from his family and spend this time together for sharing?





- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nickname was "ML." These are the initials of his first and second names. Let's say our initials and learn them.
- On the very first celebration of this national holiday in 1986, hundreds of balloons were released by children. Perhaps balloons could be released from your school.
- Bells were also rung on the very first celebration day. Be sure to ring bells in your classroom in celebration of peace.
- Do something kind for someone today. Let someone else get ahead of you in line, pick up a pencil from the floor and return it, be sure to say "thank you" and "excuse me."
- Put everyone's name on a tiny piece of paper. Fold the papers in half and put them into a basket. Each person can reach into the basket and draw a paper. Silently read the name of the person who is to be your "special" person for the day. Do something nice for that person. Say something nice to that person. At the end of the day, gather together in a circle and talk about all the nice things that were done for each other today. Can anyone guess who his or her "secret pal" is? Maybe we could have a "secret pal" time at least once a week.
- Find some children's books that have received the Coretta Scott King Award for themes that promote peace and brotherhood in children's literature, and read them aloud. Some suggestions are: Everett Anderson's *Goody-Bye* by Lucille Clifton (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983); Mufaro's *Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepherd, 1987); and *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World* by Mildred Pitts Walker (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepherd, 1986).
- Above all, let's convey the message to treat people fairly regardless of the color of their skin, their height, their weight, their looks, and the way they dress.



Name _____ Date _____

Ways to Honor Martin Luther King Jr., cont'

On January 20, 1986, the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was celebrated. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a black minister who believed in equal treatment for ALL people, regardless of the color of their skin. In the boxes below, use your crayons to show how to join in the celebration. How many will you actually do?

 ring a bell	 fly a balloon
 make a flag	 love peace justice have a parade



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Alphabetizin

Alphabetize the list of words below.

Speech _____

Segregation _____

Dream _____

Justice _____

Prejudice _____

Minister _____

Boycott _____

Equal _____

Rights _____

Liberty _____



Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Alphabetizing Answer Ke

Alphabetize the list of words below.

Speech Boycott

Segregation Dream

Dream Equal

Justice Justice

Prejudice Liberty

Minister Minister

Boycott Prejudice

Equal Rights

Rights Segregation

Liberty Speech



MLK Jr. Lesson Ideas on Nonviolenc



1929 – 1968

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. When the Montgomery Improvement Association (Montgomery, Alabama) was organized in 1955 because of unfair laws, King was elected president. He led the bus boycott against the Municipal Bus Company that was instrumental in creating the Civil Rights Act of the 1960s. King received two undergraduate degrees from Boston University as well as a doctoral degree in Systematic Theology. He was also awarded honorary degrees from many colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Nine years after his death, the United States honored him with the Congressional Medal of Freedom and declared his birthday a national holiday.



Lesson Ideas on Nonviolence, cont'

Skill Areas:

Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Cognitive, Language

Circle:

Read the book *Young Martin Luther King, Jr.: I Have a Dream*. Discuss that King believed all children should be allowed to play together and become friends.

Paint:

Provide children with a large rectangular sheet of posterboard; sponge alphabet letters; and red, black, and green paint. Use sponge alphabet letters to make the sign "Martin Luther King Jr. Drive." Hang finished projects in the classroom.

Fine Motor:

- Trace each child's body on butcher paper. Provide crayons, yarn (hair), and black-eyed peas (eyes) for decorations. Align the pictures on the wall of the classroom as if hand and hand in peace. If you have space constraints, consider making the outlines smaller than life-size.
- Have children color the picture of King on p. 47. Encourage them to share the picture and their new information about King with their parents.

Blocks:

Have children build a street to represent Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Give children toy cars or something representing cars to take turns with for driving on this street. Encourage them to make car noises. This activity provides children with an opportunity for self-expression, nonviolent emotional release, and use of gross and fine motor skills.

Gross Motor:

Provide musical instruments, and allow children to hold a march for peace. In their march for peace, children should walk from one point to another carrying banners or chanting words that stress the concept of living in harmony with others. Provide teacher-made banners or have children assist in creating them.

Stories:

Young Martin Luther King, Jr.: I Have a Dream
Young Martin's Promise



Lesson Ideas on Nonviolence, cont'

Song:

Who Was Martin Luther King?

Tune: "Old MacDonald"

*Who was Martin Luther King?
The man who had a dream.
Let's all join hands in harmony
That's what made us free.*

Chorus

Tune: "Bingo" (chorus)

*Mar-tin Luther King
Mar-tin Luther King
Mar-tin Luther King
The man who had a dream
YEAH!*

—Dr. Mark H. Davis

Field Trip:

Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

If possible take children to see any street named in King's honor and take a picture of the road sign with children around it. Display the photo in the classroom. If not possible, plan a special program honoring King. Invite a guest speaker to talk about King's life and mission and invite parents as guests.

Snack:

African Rice Bread

African rice bread is common in West Africa. Africans usually eat large meals at noon and in the evening. However, they snack most of the day on foods such as rice bread. Rice is an important part of the African diet. Have children wash hands and assist in preparing this snack. Provide cooking utensils. You will need two mixing bowls, measuring cups, spoons, a fork, a knife, a potato masher, a 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan, paper plates, and napkins.

Recipe:

African Rice Bread

(Serves 16)

*1 c cooked rice
3 T melted butter
1 egg yolk
1 banana, mashed
1 c milk
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp nutmeg
2 tsp baking powder
3 T sugar*

Grease pan and preheat oven to 375°F. Mix hot cooked rice and melted butter. In a separate bowl, beat egg yolk, add mashed banana and milk, and stir in dry ingredients. Combine with rice and butter. Put into a loaf pan and form into a loaf. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool and serve.



MLK Jr. Lesson Ideas on Friendshi

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Visual Motor, Fine Motor, Social

Circle Time:

Read the book *Friends* by Rachel Isadora. Discuss the story in detail. Ask, "Do you have a friend?" Explain that a friend is a person that you can share with, talk to, and play with. Tell the children that today they are going to have a Friendship Day. Encourage sharing and playing together in pairs. If possible, read children Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, I Have a Dream speech on p. 50, or at least an excerpt, and discuss what he meant.

Paint:

Encourage children to share, work together, and make a "friendship" train. Use the pattern on p. 51 to provide precut rectangles and circles from white construction paper. Provide one long sheet of butcher paper, yarn, paint, paint brushes, and glue. Have children glue the shapes onto the paper, forming box cars, a caboose, and wheels. Teacher can cut out and paint the engine. Use yarn to connect the cars. Have children write their names with marker on the friendship train, or assist them in doing so. Have children color and then hang finished project in classroom.

Creative:

Encourage children to make friendship bracelets. Provide shoelaces and beads for each child to string. Encourage children to use red beads (representing continuing struggle), black beads (symbolizing the color of African people), and green beads (representing the Motherland, Africa).

Blocks:

Have children build something with a friend.

Gross Motor:

Have relay races and discuss group cooperation.

Stories:

Friends

Me and Nessie

Nettie Jo's Friends



MLK Jr. Lesson Ideas on Friendship, cont'

Rhyme:

Have children sit in a circle and each take a turn saying the rhyme, using the name of the child to their right as the "friend" name. Continue around the circle clockwise.

Friends

My friend is with me in every way.

My friend helps me through the day.

My friend calls me on the telephone.

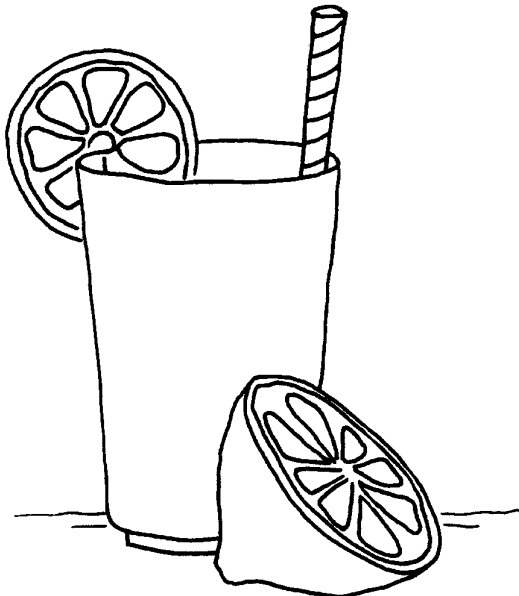
My friend will never leave me on my own.

My friend, of course, is _____!

—Mark H. Davis II

Dramatic Play:

Provide props for children to role-play and recite an excerpt from King's famous I Have A Dream speech.



Snack:

Homemade Lemonade

Lemonade is a cool, refreshing drink made with sugar, water, and lemons. A lemon has a thick, yellow rind and an oval shape with sour juice inside. Discuss vocabulary words such as *sweet* and *sour*. Encourage children to taste juice before sugar is added. Poll the children to ascertain which taste is preferred.

Recipe:

Homemade Lemonade

(Serves 16)

12 c of water

12 large lemons

1¹/₄ c sugar

Have lemons and then use a lemon squeezer to extract the lemon juice. Show the children a lemon squeezer and let them help. Grate 1 tablespoon's worth of rind. Heat sugar and water on low heat until the sugar dissolves. Mix in lemon juice and rind, and put lemonade into the refrigerator to chill.



MLK Jr. Lesson Ideas on Friendship, cont'

Following is an excerpt of the famous speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. on Aug. 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

– I Have a Dream –

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four 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.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

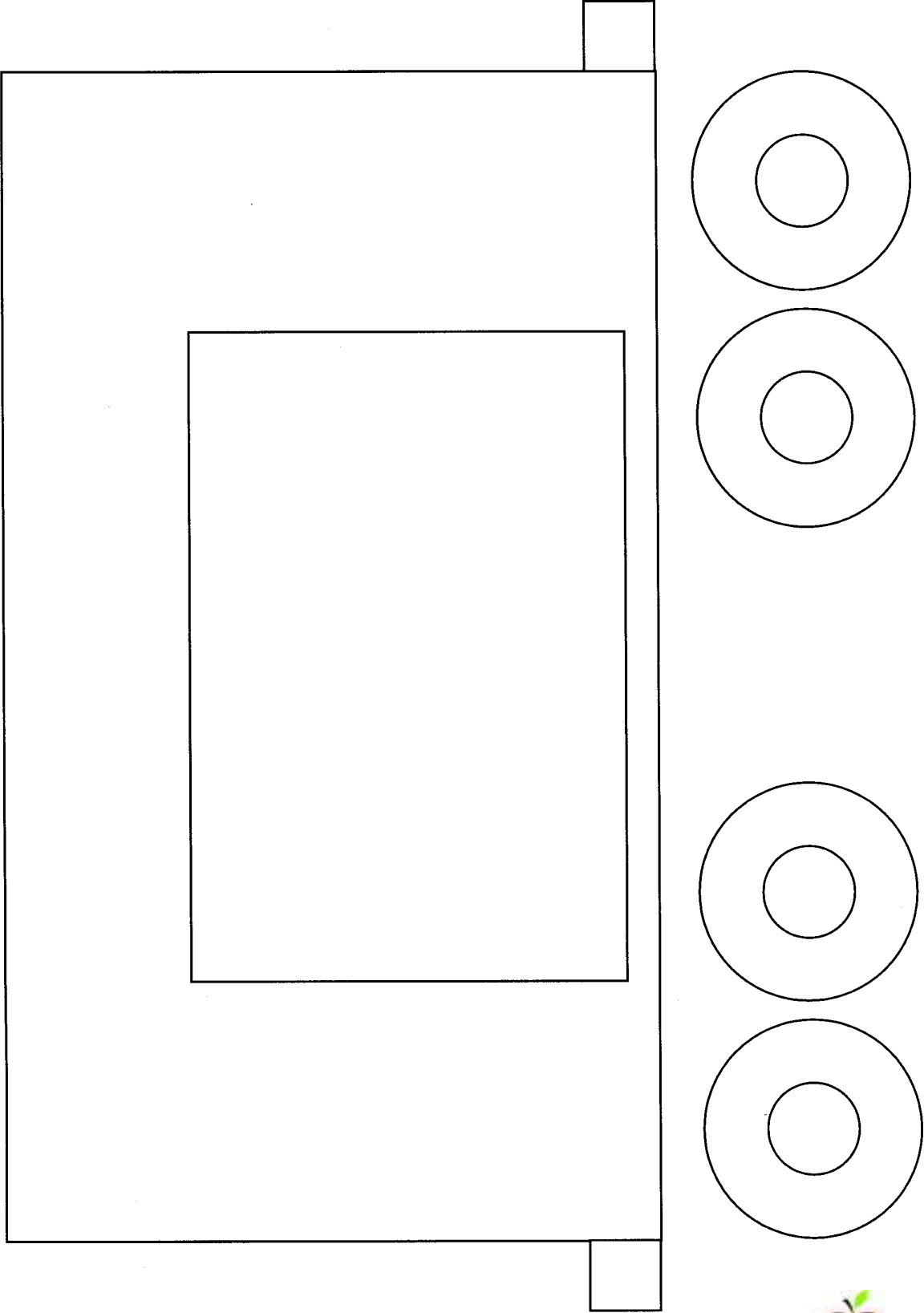
And this will be the day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



MLK Jr. Lesson Ideas on Friendship, cont'






Name _____ Date _____

MLK Jr. Coloring Pag

January 15 is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great American. He worked hard for black people and poor people. He was a great speaker. He won the Nobel Peace Prize.







Brotherhood Boo

<p>Directions: Make a Martin Luther King, Jr. "Brotherhood Book"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have students trace their hand on different colored construction paper.2. Cut out the hand prints.3. Paste the hand prints on the appropriate square, <i>by color</i>.4. Cut the book into squares. Arrange in any order, and staple.5. Read the book.	<p>name _____</p> <p>Hand In Hand with Martin Luther King, Jr.</p> 
<p>BROWN is for brotherhood.</p> 	<p>WHITE is for friendship.</p> 



Brotherhood Book, cont'

 <p>YELLOW is for peace.</p>	 <p>ORANGE is for _____.</p>
 <p>RED is for love.</p>	 <p>BLUE is for loyalty.</p>



Name _____ Date _____

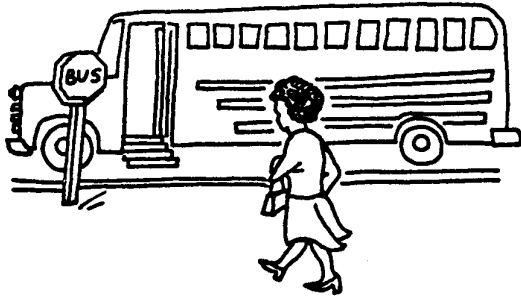
Martin Luther King Jr. and Your Dream

As we celebrate this day in January, show us what YOU look like. Write down YOUR dream.

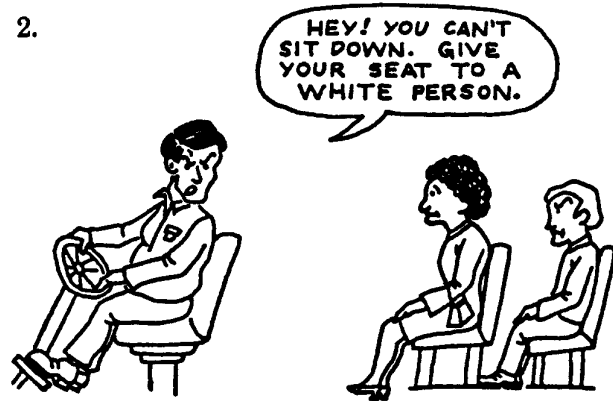


Montgomery Bus Boycot

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.

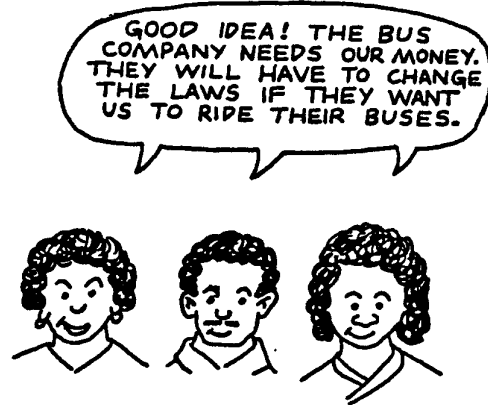


Montgomery Bus Boycott, cont'

7



8.



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



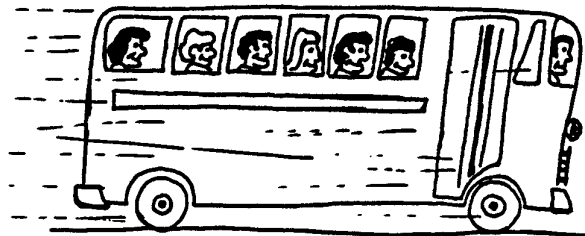
10. "That's not fair!" said the bus owners. The police arrested Martin Luther King and put him in jail.



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.



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)



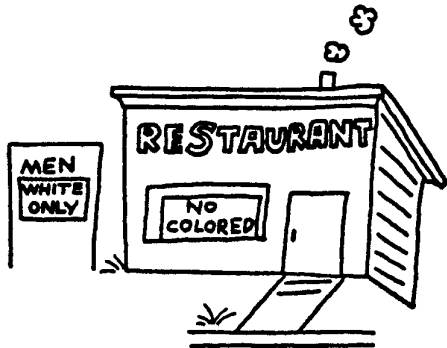
The Story of Martin Luther King Jr

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.

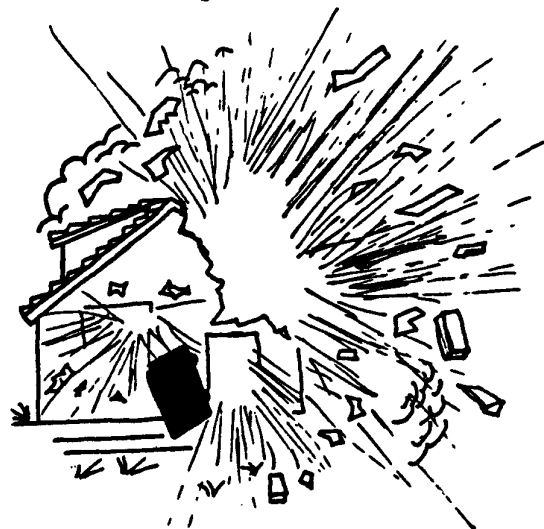
5. "Use love, not violence," he said. He made speeches. He wrote books. He helped black people to register to vote.



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.

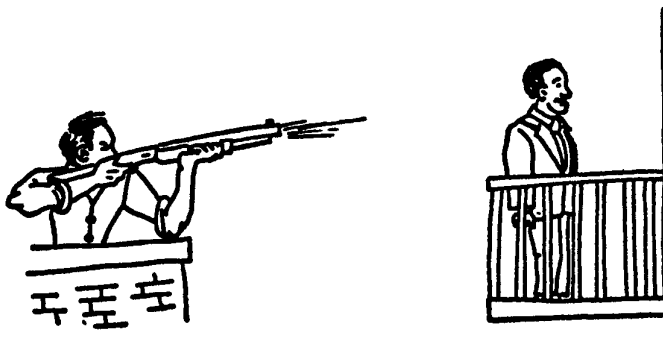


The Story of Martin Luther King Jr., cont'

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.

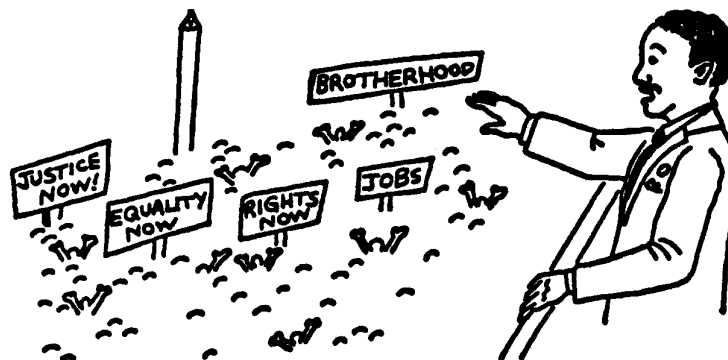


10. On April 4, 1968, King was in Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march for poor workers. An assassin shot him and he died.

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 Martin Luther King 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)



Name _____ Date _____

"I Have a Dream" Report

Martin Luther King, Jr. is a famous African-American. Locate some information books about him at the library. Use this page to help with your report.

Birthdate: _____

Why is he famous?

He made the world a better place because

My dream for the world is



Martin Luther King Jr (K-3) is compiled from:

- *ESL Teacher's Holiday Activities Kit* by Elizabeth Claire. Published by CARE.
- *African-American Awareness for Younger Children* by Evia L. Davis. Published by Good Year.
- *First Grade Teacher's Month-by-Month Activities Program* by Elizabeth Crosby Stull. Published by CARE.
- *Second Grade Teacher's Month-by-Month Activities Program* by Elizabeth Crosby Stull. Published by CARE.
- *Kindergarten Teacher's Survival Guide* by Elizabeth Crosby Stull. Published by CARE.
- *Whole Language Discovery Activities for the Primary Grades* by Margaret C. Riley and Donna L. Coe. Published by CARE.

