

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worksheet

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a pastor (priest) and the most famous civil rights leader in the United States. “Civil rights” means that every person is equal and is allowed to do the same things in the same places.

Dr. King was born in 1929. At that time, there were laws that said that black people and white people could not use the same buildings or go to the same schools. These laws, called segregation laws, meant that black people were not equal to white people. “Segregation” means to separate to things.

Because of segregation laws, there were special schools for white children and for black children as well as special places to sit on buses and trains. The places where white people could be were always much nicer than the places where black people could be.

All during his life, Dr. King was very active in civil rights. He believed that all people were equal and he wanted the law to say that as well. He began to lead people in protest of the segregation laws. "Protest" is when you say that you don't like something.

Dr. King didn't believe in violence, though. He always taught that nonviolence was more powerful than violence. He believed that being peaceful was stronger than hurting other people.

One of the first protests Dr. King lead was called the bus boycott. A "boycott" is when you stop using something or doing something to show that you don't like it. All over the country, black people stopped riding the bus to show that they didn't think it was fair that they had to sit in a different part of the bus than white people. Because of this boycott, the law was changed and black people could sit wherever they wanted.

Dr. King's most famous protest was the March on Washington in 1963. A "march" is when many people walk together to one place. Over 250,000 people got together in Washington, D.C. to show the United States government that they believed all people were equal.



During the March on Washington, Dr. King gave a speech called “I Have a Dream.” In the speech, he said that he had a dream that one day segregation laws would end.

He said, “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.” He meant that he hoped that one day everyone would think about his children, and all black children, as individual and special people and not just as black people.

In 1964, segregation laws in the United States were ended. The government said that everyone was equal to everyone else. Sadly, many people still did not believe that. These people were very angry about the end of segregation and very angry at Dr. King. One of these angry people killed Dr. King in 1968.

Today, Dr. King is still one of the most important people in American history. He believed that every person is equal. He also believed that people should live in peace and not use violence when they are angry. These are lessons that are still very important today.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Worksheet – Exercises

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What were segregation laws?

2. What were two protests that Dr. King led?

3. What were Dr. King's two beliefs?

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence "Dr. King was born in 1929."

Negative: Dr. King was not born in 1929.

Yes/No Question: Was Dr. King born in 1929?

WH-Question: When was Dr. King born?

Tag Question: Dr. King was born in 1929, wasn't he?

1. Dr. King was very active in civil rights.

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

2. Dr. King gave a speech called "I Have a Dream."

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

3. In 1964, segregation laws in the United States were ended.

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. He began to lead people _____ protest of the segregation laws.

- a) to b) in c) of

2. He taught _____ nonviolence was more powerful than violence.

- a) that b) which c) who

3. Dr. King's most famous protest was _____ March on Washington in 1963.

- a) a b) that c) the

4. The government said that everyone was equal _____ everyone else.

- a) of b) by c) to

5. These people were _____ angry about the end of segregation.

- a) much b) many c) very

6. He _____ that every person is equal.

- a) believe b) believed c) to believe

7. He _____ believed that people should live in peace.

- a) also b) too c) and

8. These _____ lessons that are still very important today.

- a) is b) am c) are

Martin Luther King, Jr. Worksheet – Answers

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What were segregation laws?

Segregation laws were laws that said that black people and white people were not allowed to be use the same buildings or go to the same schools.

2. What were two protests that Dr. King led?

Dr. King led a bus boycott and the March on Washington.

3. What were Dr. King's two beliefs?

Dr. King believed that all people were equal and that nonviolence (peace) was stronger than violence.

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence “Dr. King was born in 1929.”

Negative: Dr. King was not born in 1929.

Yes/No Question: Was Dr. King born in 1929?

WH-Question: When was Dr. King born?

Tag Question: Dr. King was born in 1929, wasn't he?

1. Dr. King was very active in civil rights.

Negative: Dr. King was not very active in civil rights.

Yes/No Question: Was Dr. King very active in civil rights?

WH-Question: Who was very active in civil rights?

Tag Question: Dr. King was very active in civil rights, wasn't he?

2. Dr. King gave a speech called "I Have a Dream."

Negative: Dr. King did not give a speech called, "I Have a Dream."

Yes/No Question: Did Dr. King give a speech called, "I Have a Dream?"

WH-Question: What was Dr. King's speech called?

Tag Question: Dr. King gave a speech called, "I Have a Dream," didn't he?

3. In 1964, segregation laws in the United States were ended.

Negative: In 1964, segregation laws in the United States were not ended.

Yes/No Question: Were segregation laws in the United States ended in
1964?

WH-Question: When were segregation laws in the United States ended?

Tag Question: In 1964, segregation laws in the United States were ended,
weren't they?

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