



# 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  |                   |

- a King became a preacher. ....
  - b King made his ‘I have a dream’ speech. ....
  - c The United States passed a law that accepted segregation in all states. ....
  - d Rosa Parks was arrested on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. ....
  - e Slave ships became illegal in America. ....
  - f Segregation in United States schools became illegal. ....
  - g Slavery ended in the United States. ....
  - h The civil rights campaign in the United States began. ....
- 2 Choose the correct answer.
- a 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.
  - b King finally decided to become a preacher because of ....
    - 1) Dr Mays.
    - 2) Daddy King.
    - 3) his mother.
  - c 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.
  - d 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 |
|-------|---------|------|------|-------|

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.
- a What job did Coretta Scott have before she married King?
  - b What job did she have after they were married?
  - c Why did she return to the South with Martin?
  - d How many children did she and Martin have?
  - e 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.
- a Why did Henry Thoreau refuse to pay money on his earnings to the US government?
  - b 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.
- a  King and his wife see suffering in Nigeria.
  - b  King and Abernathy visit Richard Nixon.
  - c  King appears on the cover of *Time* magazine.
  - d  A black woman tries to kill King.
  - e  Ralph Abernathy’s house is bombed.
  - f  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

- 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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**1 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.



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## Book key

- 1 a civil rights, freedom, peace, voting rights  
b boycott, demonstrate, march, protest, riot  
(also, possibly, bomb, violence)
- 2 a no b yes c no
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a Washington, D.C.  
b Daddy King (Martin Luther King's father)  
c Atlanta d Montgomery (Alabama)  
e Connecticut
- 5 a 1620 b 1807 b 1861–65 d 1896 e 1909  
f 1954 g 1955
- 6–9 Open answers
- 10 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f ✗ g ✗
- 11 a Mrs. Parks was arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white person.  
b Martin Luther King joined the boycotters in jail.  
c Segregation on buses in the United States became illegal.
- 12–14 Open answers
- 15 a 3 b 4 c 2 d 1 e 5
- 16 ✓: b, c, e
- 17 a King said this to the people in his church because he was very worried. He was prepared to die for his people.  
b A guard at the court room said this to King because King tried to get inside. King wanted to speak to Abernathy.  
c King thought this because the police were driving him 500 kilometers through dark country roads in the early hours of the morning.  
d Daddy King said this to the people at Ebenezer Church because he was grateful to JFK for his help.
- 18 a After he talked to the judge, King was freed on bail.  
b He sent soldiers to stop the segregationists' attack on the Freedom Riders.  
c They moved people out of a church where segregationists were becoming violent.
- 19–20 Open answers
- 21 a nine b riot c King's d demonstrations  
e police
- 22 ✓: a, c, e

- 23 a He was the state leader of Alabama and he promised to continue segregation in the state colleges.  
b The SCLC organized protest marches for the civil rights campaign. It held important discussions with business and church leaders.  
c He was Birmingham's police chief and a segregationist. He gave orders to the police to arrest and attack black children.
- 24 Open answers
- 25 a Selma, Alabama b Montgomery, Alabama  
c Washington, D.C. d South Vietnam  
e Watts, in Los Angeles f Chicago  
g Memphis, Tennessee h Memphis
- 26 a This made King happy because black people finally won the right to vote.  
b This worried King because he did not believe in violence.  
c This worried King because he did not want more riots and violence.  
d This worried King because he did not believe in the use of violence. The money was needed for houses for poor people in the U.S.  
e This made King happy. He and black Americans will die and go to the Promised Land.

27–34 Open answers

## Discussion activities key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a True  
b African-Americans suffered because of laws in the American South.  
c Segregation means that a black person cannot sit next to a white person on the bus.  
d King wanted all protests and marches to be non-violent.  
e True
- 3–13 Open answers

## Activity worksheets key

- 1 a February 15, 1948  
b August 28, 1963  
c 1896  
d December 1, 1955  
e 1807  
f May 16, 1954  
g 1865  
h December 1955



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- 2 a 3 b 1 c 2 d 1
- 3 a free b poor c black d white e changed
- 4 a She was a singer.  
b She was King's secretary.  
c Because King's work was important.  
d Four.  
e Because people wanted to kill him.
- 5 Open answers
- 6 The black taxi companies, the MIA and world opinion were for the boycott. The bus company, the KKK, the politicians and the police were against the boycott.
- 7 a Because he didn't agree with the U.S. war with Mexico.  
b Freedom from British rule.
- 8 a 3 b 5 c 7 d 10 e 1 f 6 g 9 h 8  
i 4 j 2
- 9 a Because the newspapers always wrote about it.  
b Because the world was watching.  
c Because it was a prison for the worst criminals.  
d He said he wasn't a politician.
- 10 a 4 b 2 c 5 d 1 e 3 f 7 g 6
- 11 a Because Orval Faubus, state leader, was breaking the law.  
b "Never!"  
c They could not believe their eyes.  
d He did not want another war between the South and the North in America.  
e About 50,000.  
f John F. Kennedy was shot dead. The KKK murdered four young school girls in a church in Birmingham.  
g Because black and white city leaders sat down and ate together.
- 12 a 4 b 1 c 7 d 3 e 2 f 5 g 8 h 6
- 13 a listen b defend c work d riot e end  
f give g get
- 14 a King spoke to workers who wanted higher pay on the day before he died.  
b King was killed outside of a hotel.  
c There were riots in 110 cities when Americans heard that King was dead.  
d One hundred and twenty million people watched King's funeral on television.  
e King's killer was sent to prison for thirty years.

## Progress test key

- 1 a speech b name c books d college  
e church f seats g cloth h gun
- 2 a ✓ b ✗ c ? d ✓ e ✗ f ✗ g ?
- 3 a King met Coretta Scott in Boston.  
b After she married King, Coretta sang and gave the money to the civil rights campaign.  
c On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks did not give her seat to a white person on the bus.  
d The KKK was an organization in the South which attacked black people.  
e Thoreau was an American writer who refused to obey laws that he did not agree with.  
f Gandhi was an Indian who studied law and believed in peaceful protest.
- 4 a Ghana b bookstore c prison  
d John F. Kennedy (JFK) e "Whites only" seats  
f rocks g soldiers
- 5 a F – King wrote the letter to a group of white preachers.  
b T  
c F – There were more than 200,000 marchers and almost one quarter were white.  
d F – They were not sent to prison for many years.  
e T
- 6 a on the voting list  
b police  
c state building  
d against  
e the SNCC  
f poor and hopeless  
g riots