

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s involvement in the American civil rights movement forever changed U.S. history. He is recognized on the third Monday of every January for his leadership and commitment to the pursuit of equality. Take this quiz to see if you know all there is to know about Dr. King and the civil rights movement.



In what year was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?

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- 1968
- 1972
- 1980

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Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated at the age of 39 on April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee.

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Dr. King was 35 years old when he received the Nobel Peace Prize, at the time making him the youngest such laureate. He was awarded a Nobel medal and \$54,123 in prize money that was donated to help further the civil rights movement. A 17 year old won it in 2014.

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President Reagan signed the legislation in 1983, but the holiday wasn't celebrated nationally until Jan. 20, 1986. In 1994, Coretta Scott King, his widow, asked Congress to make it a national day of service--her wish was granted that year when President Bill Clinton signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act

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The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Stone of Hope was opened in 2011 on the National Mall. The monument to Dr. King stands 30 feet tall. On one side, it reads: "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope," a line used by Dr. King in his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



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The Montgomery Bus Boycott began in December 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, after Rosa Parks was arrested on Dec. 1 for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. The boycott extended more than a year, taking a heavy toll on the local public transportation system. The Supreme Court in November 1956 ruled segregated bus seating unconstitutional. Shortly after the ruling, Montgomery, Alabama desegregated its buses.

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- Brown v. Board of Education
- Plessy v. Ferguson
- Murray v. Maryland

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The Brown v. Board of Education decision actually encompasses five individual cases presented to the U.S. Supreme Court in relation to public school segregation. The Supreme Court in 1952 combined all of the cases into what became known as Brown v. Board of Education. Proponents of desegregation argued that racially divided schools violated the "equal protection clause" guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. The Court was unable to come to a solution by June 1953, the end of its term, and thus reheard the case that December. On May 14, 1954, the Supreme Court finally concluded that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

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Dr. King was born Michael King Jr. on Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta. King Sr. became pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1931 and changed his name to Martin Luther King Sr., in reference to the German Protestant leader Martin Luther. King Jr. followed suit. King Jr. skipped two grades in high school, enrolling at Morehouse College when he was 15 years old. He went on to attend Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania and studied to become a minister, later attending Boston University for his doctorate. King Sr. had instilled the importance of racial equality on his children, in part leading King Jr. into civil rights activism. King was elected to lead the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott following Rosa Parks' arrest, and the Supreme Court's subsequent ruling that bus segregation was unconstitutional represented a key victory for King and Parks in the civil rights movement.

In Jan. 1957, Martin Luther King Jr. and a group of about 60 ministers and civil rights leaders met in Atlanta to discuss their next step after the Supreme Court ruled bus segregation unconstitutional. This group of leaders formed an organization that became known as what?

- The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- The Ebenezer Baptist Leadership Committee
- The Southern Committee for Equal Rights
- None of the above

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The Southern Christian Leadership Conference first gathered in 1957 to discuss appropriate non-violent protest options and potential events that would further the civil rights cause across the country. The SCLC encouraged African American citizens to vote in elections to make their voices heard and sponsored more than 20 events in major southern cities to register African American voters.

What can we learn from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or in other words, how can his life change our lives today?

What can we learn from successful people?

We'll take a look at and discuss some of Martin Luther King Jr.'s most famous quotes and what we can learn from them today.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.

The time is always right to do what is right.

That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.

But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.

Let no man pull you so low as to hate him.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

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There comes a time when silence is betrayal.

In conclusion, we offer the powerful words Dr. King delivered in a sermon on February 4, 1968, at Ebenezer Baptist Church:

"If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell him not to talk too long...Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize. That isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards. That's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school.

Continued...

I'd like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day, that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity."

Questions...

- Which of these quotes was your favorite?
- How have you been inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today?
- What will you do differently because of what you have learned today?