

Discover America

Course 16 - Teacher Guide



The Civil Rights Movement: MLK, Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges

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4th Grade Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Equality
- Integrity
- Bravery

Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Summarize the life of Martin Luther King Jr. highlighting important events/milestones
- Explain why Martin Luther King Jr. is important in the Civil Rights movement
- Describe the Impact Martin Luther King Jr. had on America as a society



Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

What do you know about Martin Luther King Jr.?

Have you heard his name before?

Are you familiar with the holiday we have in his honor during the month of January?
(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most influential figures during the Civil Rights movement. He is very well known for his peaceful way of standing up for what he believed in and opposing unfairness towards minorities. His story is one full of hard work, passion, and determination that ultimately led to equal rights and fair treatment for Americans of all backgrounds.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Segregation** - separation between Black and White Americans
- 02 **Civil Rights** - the personal freedoms we have under the U.S. Constitution
- 03 **Boycott** - when people refuse to participate in or buy something because they disagree with a policy that the company or entity promotes
- 04 **Integrate** - the act of combining multiple races of people in society
- 05 **Discrimination** - treating someone differently because of their race or group they belong to
- 06 **Spokesperson** - person who is the speaker for a group
- 07 **Civil Rights Act of 1964** - ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or national origin
- 08 **Activist** - someone who works to advocate for a particular cause
- 09 **Protest** - actions taken to express disagreement or disapproval of something
- 10 **Martin Luther King Jr.** - a public speaker who was known for his role in the civil rights movement leading peaceful protests

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta Georgia. His mother was a former school teacher, his father was a pastor, and he had an older sister and a younger brother.

King was a hard-working and talented student who studied medicine and law at Morehouse College. He didn't plan to become a pastor like his father, but one of his mentors helped to change his mind.

King went to Pennsylvania to attend Crozer Theological Seminary. He received a Bachelor of Divinity degree and was so respected that his classmates – who were mostly white – elected him as class president. He earned his doctorate from Boston University and married Coretta Scott. They moved to Montgomery, Alabama and had four children throughout their marriage.

The King family was living in Montgomery when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus. In response to her arrest, Black Americans in Montgomery decided to get together and organize a boycott of the city's buses on December 5, 1955, the day of her trial. (A boycott is when people refuse to participate in or buy something because they disagree with a policy that the company or entity promotes.) Forty thousand Black bus riders refused to take the bus that day. Because most of the buses' usual passengers were Black, this was a big hit to the city.

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

To keep the boycott going until Blacks were given better treatment on buses, Black leaders established the Montgomery Improvement Association and elected 26-year-old-pastor Martin Luther King Jr. as the president and spokesperson. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first large-scale demonstration against segregation and lasted 381 days. Finally, on December 21, 1956, Montgomery's buses were integrated.

This was a great victory for the civil rights movement but the work was far from over. King established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with other activists to work toward using nonviolent protests to secure full equality for Blacks in America.

Their motto was, **"Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed."**

King became such a strong influence and leader in the civil rights movement that he was targeted by those who wanted to keep the evils of segregation in place. He was stabbed, his house was firebombed, and he was threatened, but despite this violence directed at him, King knew that for the movement to be successful, violence was not the answer — a peaceful protest was.

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

King worked with other leaders and activists to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It took place on August 28, 1963 and was a peaceful rally that called attention to the injustices targeting Black Americans.

Speaking to more than 200,000 demonstrators, King delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

King talked about how all people, regardless of what they looked like, were created equal and that it was what was inside of their hearts that was most important.

King declared, "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."

The March on Washington was so impactful, and King's words so inspiring, that the United States passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination.

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade

Flash Cards



CIVIL RIGHTS

the personal freedoms we have under the U.S. Constitution

SEGREGATION

separation between Black and White Americans

INTEGRATE

the act of combining multiple races of people in society



BOYCOTT

when people refuse to participate in or buy something because they disagree with a policy that the company or entity promotes

ACTIVIST

someone who works to advocate for a particular cause

DISCRIMINATION

treating someone differently because of their race or group they belong to

**CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
OF 1964**

ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or national origin



**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR.**

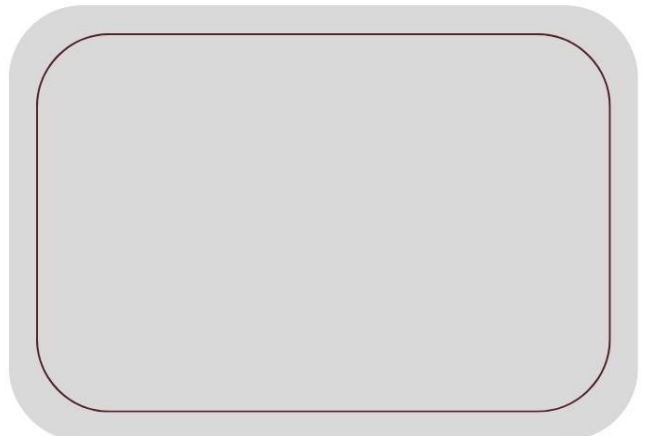
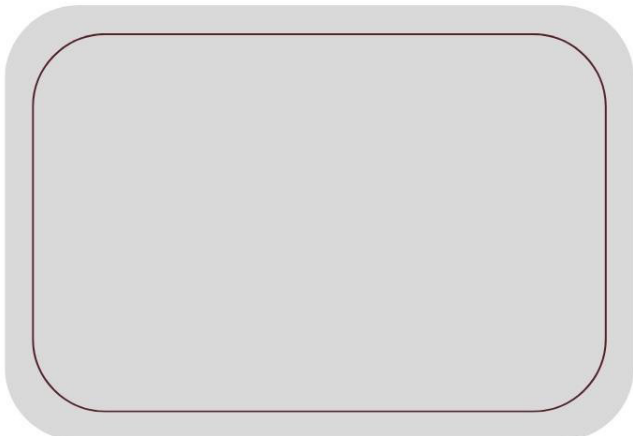
a public speaker who
encouraged everyone
to treat others equally
no matter what

SPOKESPERSON

person who is the
speaker for a group

PROTEST

actions taken to
express disagreement
or disapproval of
something



Civil Rights Movement

I Have a Dream

Directions: Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that one day people from all backgrounds would love and respect each other. What are your dreams? Think of a dream you have for yourself and for the world. Use the outline to brainstorm ideas. Then, use the drafting page to start putting your thoughts together into complete sentences. The final page is for writing your finished essay!

<p>STATE ONE DREAM FOR YOURSELF</p> 	<p>STATE ONE DREAM FOR YOUR WORLD</p>
<p>EXPLAIN HOW YOU WILL MAKE THIS DREAM COME TRUE</p> 	<p>EXPLAIN HOW YOU WILL MAKE THIS DREAM COME TRUE</p>

Dream for Yourself
and Your World

I have a dream that one day...

Dream for Yourself

First, I have a dream that...

I will make this dream come true by...

Dream for Your World

I also have a dream that...

I will make this dream come true by...

In conclusion...

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade Assessment

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.

pastor	integrated	spokesperson	student	activists
December 5, 1955	Montgomery	Civil Rights Act of 1964	January 15, 1929	Coretta Scott
I Have a Dream	December 21, 1956	Martin Luther King Jr.	August 28, 1963	boycott

1. On _____ Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta Georgia.
2. King was a hard-working _____ who studied medicine and law at Morehouse College.
3. He didn't plan to become a _____ like his father, but one of his mentors helped to change his mind.
4. He earned his doctorate from Boston University and married _____. They moved to _____, Alabama and had four children throughout their marriage.
5. Black Americans in Montgomery decided to get together and organize a _____ of the city's buses on _____, the day of Rosa Parks' trial.
6. Black leaders established the Montgomery Improvement Association and elected _____ as the president and _____.
7. Finally, on _____, Montgomery's buses were _____.
8. King worked with other leaders and _____ to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It took place on _____ and was a peaceful rally that called attention to the injustices targeting Black Americans.
9. King delivered his famous " _____ " speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
10. The March on Washington was so impactful, and King's words so inspiring, that the United States passed the _____.

Civil Rights Movement - 4th Grade Assessment

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.				
pastor	integrated	spokesperson	student	activists
December 5, 1955	Montgomery	Civil Rights Act of 1964	January 15, 1929	Coretta Scott
I Have a Dream	December 21, 1956	Martin Luther King Jr.	August 28, 1963	boycott

1. On *January 15, 1929*, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta Georgia.
2. King was a hard-working *student* who studied medicine and law at Morehouse College.
3. He didn't plan to become a *pastor* like his father, but one of his mentors helped to change his mind.
4. He earned his doctorate from Boston University and married *Coretta Scott*. They moved to *Montgomery*, Alabama and had four children throughout their marriage.
5. Black Americans in Montgomery decided to get together and organize a *boycott* of the city's buses on *December 5, 1955*, the day of Rosa Parks' trial.
6. Black leaders established the Montgomery Improvement Association and elected *Martin Luther King Jr.* as the president and *spokesperson*.
7. Finally, on *December 21, 1956*, Montgomery's buses were *integrated*.
8. King worked with other leaders and *activists* to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It took place on *August 28, 1963* and was a peaceful rally that called attention to the injustices targeting Black Americans.
9. King delivered his famous "*I Have a Dream*" speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- 10 The March on Washington was so impactful, and King's words so inspiring, that the United States passed the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*.

Civil Rights Movement

Resource List

- 01 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-act>
- 02 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/montgomery-bus-boycott>
- 03 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks>
- 04 <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/march-washington-jobs-and-freedom>
- 05 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/ruby-bridges-desegregates-her-school>
- 06 <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/07/1121133099/school-segregation-ruby-bridges>
- 07 <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ruby-bridges>
- 08 <https://www.rosaparks.org/biography/>
- 09 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr>
- 10 <https://www.archives.gov/files/social-media/transcripts/transcript-march-pt3-of-3-2602934.pdf>
- 11 <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/civil-rights-movement/a/african-american-veterans-and-the-civil-rights-movement>

