

Social studies

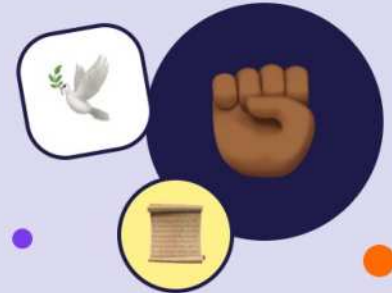
Grade 3

Martin Luther King Jr. reading comprehension: a life of peaceful change

Read about Dr. King's life and the March on Washington, then put the events in order.



I can describe events in a person's life in the order they happened.



1



Dr. King's dream



Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was growing up, many laws kept Black and white people apart. Black people were not allowed to use the same schools, restaurants or water fountains as white people. Martin knew these laws were unfair.

Martin became a minister and a leader in the civil rights movement. In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, he helped lead a bus boycott. For more than a year, many people refused to ride the city buses until the rule that Black riders had to give up their seats was ended.

Dr. King believed in peaceful protest. He said that people should work for change without fighting. On August 28, 1963, about 250,000 people joined the March on Washington. There, Dr. King gave his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech about a country where all people are treated equally.

Dr. King died in 1968, but his ideas lived on. Since 1986, the United States has honored him with a holiday on the third Monday in January.

2



Put it in order

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐

Dr. King gives the 'I Have a Dream' speech.

☐

Martin is born in Atlanta, Georgia.

☐

The first national holiday for Dr. King is held.

☐

Dr. King helps lead the Montgomery bus boycott.

3



Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

civil rights

☐

boycott

☐

peaceful protest

☐

equal



A. Showing you disagree without fighting.



B. The same for everyone.



C. The rights every person should have to be treated fairly.



D. Refusing to use or buy something to show it is unfair.

4

**Check your reading**

Circle the best answer.

1. Where was Dr. King born?

A Atlanta, Georgia

B Montgomery, Alabama

C Washington, D.C.

2. About how many people joined the March on Washington?

A 2,500

B 25,000

C 250,000

3. When is Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

A The third Monday in January

B July 4

C The last Monday in May

5

**Key details**

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Dr. King was born on January _____, 1929.

2. He was born in _____, Georgia.

3. The Montgomery bus boycott began in _____.

4. The March on Washington was on August 28, _____.

5. Dr. King was _____ years old when he gave the 'I Have a Dream' speech.

6. The national holiday has been held since _____.

6

**True or false**

Circle the right answer.

1. Dr. King was a minister.

True

False

2. The bus boycott lasted only one day.

True

False

3. Dr. King believed people should fight to make change.

True

False

4. The March on Washington was in 1963.

True

False

5. Old laws kept Black and white people apart.

True

False

6. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is in February.

True

False

7



Fair or unfair?

Write each rule in the right column.

separate schools for Black and white children

everyone may sit anywhere on the bus

having to give up your seat because of your skin color

all people treated equally

separate water fountains

everyone may eat at the same restaurants

Fair

Unfair

8



Think about it

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did people refuse to ride the city buses?

A The buses were too slow.

B To end an unfair rule about seats

C They wanted to walk for exercise.

2. In paragraph 2, what does 'refused' mean?

A said no

B said yes

C forgot

3. The boycott began in 1955. The holiday began in 1986. How many years apart is that?

A 21

B 41

C 31

4. Which word best describes the way Dr. King worked for change?

A angry

B peaceful

C lazy

9



Your dream

Dr. King had a dream about fairness. Write one dream you have for your school or town, and one peaceful way to help make it happen.

How did it go?



Made with 

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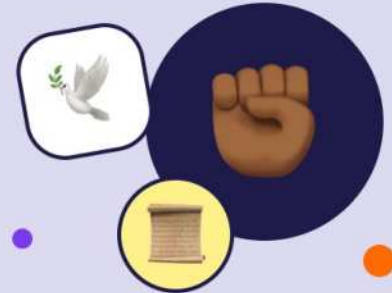
Answer key

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Dr. King's dream



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Martin became a minister and a leader in the civil rights movement. In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, he helped lead a bus boycott. For more than a year, many people refused to ride the city buses until the rule that Black riders had to give up their seats was ended.

Dr. King believed in peaceful protest. He said that people should work for change without fighting. On August 28, 1963, about 250,000 people joined the March on Washington. There, Dr. King gave his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech about a country where all people are treated equally.

Dr. King died in 1968, but his ideas lived on. Since 1986, the United States has honored him with a holiday on the third Monday in January.

2



Put it in order

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

3

Dr. King gives the 'I Have a Dream' speech.

1

Martin is born in Atlanta, Georgia.

4

The first national holiday for Dr. King is held.

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Dr. King helps lead the Montgomery bus boycott.

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Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

C

civil rights



D

boycott



A

peaceful protest



B

equal



A. Showing you disagree without fighting.



B. The same for everyone.



C. The rights every person should have to be treated fairly.



D. Refusing to use or buy something to show it is unfair.

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**Check your reading**

Circle the best answer.

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B 25,000

C 250,000

3. When is Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

A The third Monday in January

B July 4

C The last Monday in May

5

**Key details**

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929.2. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia.3. The Montgomery bus boycott began in 1955.4. The March on Washington was on August 28, 1963.5. Dr. King was 34 years old when he gave the 'I Have a Dream' speech.6. The national holiday has been held since 1986.

6

**True or false**

Circle the right answer.

1. Dr. King was a minister.

True

False

2. The bus boycott lasted only one day.

True

False

3. Dr. King believed people should fight to make change.

True

False

4. The March on Washington was in 1963.

True

False

5. Old laws kept Black and white people apart.

True

False

6. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is in February.

True

False

7



Fair or unfair?

Write each rule in the right column.

separate schools for Black and white children

everyone may sit anywhere on the bus

having to give up your seat because of your skin color

all people treated equally

separate water fountains

everyone may eat at the same restaurants

Fair

everyone may sit anywhere on the bus, all people treated equally, everyone may eat at the same restaurants

Unfair

separate schools for Black and white children, having to give up your seat because of your skin color, separate water fountains

8



Think about it

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did people refuse to ride the city buses?

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Your dream

Dr. King had a dream about fairness. Write one dream you have for your school or town, and one peaceful way to help make it happen.

Answers vary. Example: I dream that everyone at recess gets included. I can invite kids who are alone to play with us.

How did it go?



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