

MARTIN LUTHER KING



Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. He studied in Philadelphia where he became enthusiastic about Gandhi and his policy of non-violence.

In 1954, in Montgomery, where he was a minister in a small Negro church, he carried out the first non violent demonstration against racial discrimination. This followed an incident when a black lady called Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in a seat on a bus reserved for white people and refusing to give it to a white man. For a year black people walked, cycled or used cars instead of taking the bus. In 1956 segregation was declared illegal on buses in Alabama. Martin Luther King won his first battle.

Martin Luther King became famous for the Black Freedom Movement. He was arrested and imprisoned many times but he never stopped his campaign.

On August 28th 1963 Martin Luther King led a peaceful march to Washington. About two hundred and fifty thousand people sang, prayed and listened to his famous speech called *I Have a Dream*. In it he talked about his dreams for the future when black and white children would play together and slaves and slave owners would sit down to eat together. There was no violence during the demonstration.

Martin Luther King won the Nobel Prize in 1964. This great man was assassinated in Memphis in 1968.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1 When and where was Martin Luther King born?

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2 What was his job?

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3 Against what did he demonstrate?

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4 What was the characteristic of his demonstrations?

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5 Who was Rosa Parks? Why was she arrested?

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6 Was Martin Luther King arrested?

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7 What did Martin Luther King do in 1963?

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8 What did he talk about in his famous speech *I Have a Dream*?

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9 How and when did he die?

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10 Is racism still a problem in the country you live?

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