

Martin Luther King Day Activities!

CIVIL RIGHTS VOCABULARY WORDS

Ask your students to define the following words that relate to Dr. King's life and work:

EQUALITY	PEACE
CIVIL RIGHTS	PREJUDICE
BOYCOTT	PROTEST
CHARACTER	DEMONSTRATION
JUSTICE	OPPORTUNITY

Instruct students to write a report about Dr. King using several of these words.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Older children may like to research other recipients of this distinguished award. Assign a given year to each student and ask them to find out about the person or persons that received the award for that year. Instruct the students to write reports about the award winners and the reasons they were chosen. Assemble the reports in chronological order and display them on the class board with the title, "Peace For The World!"

I HAVE A DREAM.....

Read to your students a portion of the speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King in Washington, D.C. in 1963. Explain to them that when speaking of his "dream," Dr. King did not mean a dream such as the ones we have when we sleep, but rather a wish or hope. Ask children to take each letter in the word "DREAM" and write a sentence about a hope they have for themselves, their families or their community.

,HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARTIN!

Encourage your students to participate in singing "Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King" on his special day, January 15th. Students may like to write simple poems that can then be put to familiar tunes in tribute to Dr. King.

At the end of the day, let your students celebrate Dr. King's accomplishments by having a class party. Provide chocolate and vanilla cupcakes that can be frosted by your students and decorated with sugar sprinkles or red hots.

VIOLENCE OR NONVIOLENCE

Discuss with your students the various ways to solve problems or disagreements. Encourage them to look for ways to promote nonviolence and compromise when settling disputes. Here are a few examples of problems that can be discussed in the classroom. Encourage students to add their own scenarios for discussion.

You have a friend who dislikes people that have a different skin color. He often calls them names and says mean things about them. What do you do?

There is an older student that has threatened you and wants to fight you after school. What do you do?

Your school has a new rule that seems to be unfair to the students in your grade level. What do you do?

You are really angry at a student in your class because she teased you about your old tennis shoes. What do you do?

