

Martin Luther King Jr.: A Leader of Change

Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, grew up in a time when segregation and discrimination against Black Americans were common in many parts of the United States. Despite these challenges, King was a brilliant student and earned a doctorate in theology from Boston University.

King became a minister like his father, but his journey led him far beyond the walls of his church. He became a central figure in the Civil Rights Movement, advocating for equality and justice through nonviolent protest. The teachings of Mahatma Gandhi inspired his belief in peaceful resistance.

One of King's first major roles in the movement was as a spokesperson and leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. This year-long protest began after Rosa Parks, a Black American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white person on a segregated bus. The boycott was successful, leading to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

King's efforts gained national attention, and he continued to lead peaceful protests and marches. In 1963, he helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In front of the Lincoln Memorial, King delivered his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream." This speech became a defining moment of the Civil Rights Movement and is remembered for its powerful vision of a future where people would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

King's activism and leadership led to significant changes in American laws and society. His work played a crucial role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which protected voting rights.

Tragically, Martin Luther King Jr.'s life was cut short when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. Despite his untimely death, King's legacy continues to inspire people around the world in the fight for equality and justice.

Questions:

1. What date was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

2. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

3. What type of discrimination was common in the United States during King's early life?

4. What academic degree did Martin Luther King Jr. earn, and from which university?

5. What profession did King follow, like his father?

6. What movement did King become a central figure in?

7. Who inspired King's belief in nonviolent protest?

8. What was one of King's first major roles in the Civil Rights Movement?

9. What incident sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

10. What was the outcome of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

11. In what year did King help organize the March on Washington?

12. Where did King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech?

13. What was the central message of the "I Have a Dream" speech?

14. What major legislative act did King's work help pass in 1964?

15. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaw?

16. Which act, passed in 1965, was influenced by King's activism?

17. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ban?

18. When and where was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?

19. How has King's legacy continued after his death?

20. What was King's stance on the method of protest?
