

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

AGES 5-8

**LOVE IS THE
ONLY FORCE CAPABLE
OF TRANSFORMING AN
ENEMY INTO A FRIEND.
- MLK**

BOTWC MINI POSING AS
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



**MAKE
LOVE
KNOWN.**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



The third Monday of January each year is **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. Every year, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life (also known as MLK) and his fight for **justice**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. used **protests** to show his strong **desire** for **equality** and **civil rights** for African Americans. His activism was known throughout the world. He fought for issues like unemployment, homelessness, racism, segregation, and many other injustices.

MLK was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929. He was the middle child of three children. He spent his life in Georgia, growing up alongside family and the church where his father was a pastor. After skipping the 9th and 11th grades, MLK started at **Morehouse College** at the age of fifteen.

During the next ten years, Martin would study **sociology, theology**, and earned his **doctorate** from Boston University. He also married Coretta Scott King, had four children and became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama.

On March 2, 1955, a 15-year-old named Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat on the bus. The teenager was arrested and placed in jail. The **NAACP** asked MLK to help them in leading a boycott of the Montgomery Bus system the night that Rosa Parks decided not to give up her bus seat, as planned by the NAACP.

In his first **Montgomery Bus Boycott** speech, MLK stated, "We have no alternative but to protest. For many years we have shown an amazing patience. We have sometimes given our white brothers the feeling that we liked the way we were being treated. But we come here tonight to be saved from that patience that makes us patient with anything less than freedom and justice."

The bus boycott involved 382 days of walking to work, harassment and violence, for Montgomery's African American community. MLK's house was also attacked during that time.

Even after the harassment, MLK insisted on fighting for civil rights. Five years later, he was a part of The Greensboro sit-in movement started by **The Greensboro Four**. African Americans would sit in to protest segregated lunch counters. On October 19, 1960, King and 75 students entered a local department store and requested lunch-counter service but were denied. When they refused to leave the counter area, King and 36 others were arrested.



THE ACTIVIST



In 1963, MLK continued to fight for our rights when he organized a demonstration in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. King was jailed along with large numbers of his supporters, but the event drew nationwide attention to the many injustices African Americans faced.

In the spring of 1968, a **labor strike** by Memphis **sanitation workers** (garbage collectors) drew MLK to his last protest. African American sanitation workers were hurt on the job, worked in unsafe conditions, and weren't getting equal pay. During his visit to Memphis, Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) was **assassinated**. Coretta Scott King, a musician, civil rights advocate, and MLK's wife and 42,000 people marched in protest

through Memphis. In eight days, the workers had a deal with the **union**.

MLK's activism changed the world for African Americans. His contributions are still felt to this very day. His movement is an **inspiration** for many of those that followed and many protests that are happening today.

GLOSSARY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15)

Justice: behavior or treatment based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.

Protest: to show or express strong disagreement with or disapproval of something.

Desire: a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.

Equality: the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.

Civil Rights: the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

Morehouse College: private, historically black men's college located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sociology: the study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society.

Theology: the study of the nature of God and religious belief.

Doctorate: the highest degree awarded by a graduate school or other approved educational organization.

Montgomery Bus Boycott: a civil-rights protest during which African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama to protest segregated seating.

NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP is an American organization that works to protect the rights of African Americans.

Sanitation Worker: a person employed to collect, haul away, and dispose of garbage.

Labor Strike: the refusal of work by many employees.

The Greensboro Sit-Ins: a series of nonviolent protests in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960, which led to the Woolworth department store chain removing its policy of racial segregation in the Southern United States.

Assassinated: murdered (an important person) in a surprise attack for political or religious reasons.

Union: an organized association of workers, often in a trade or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.

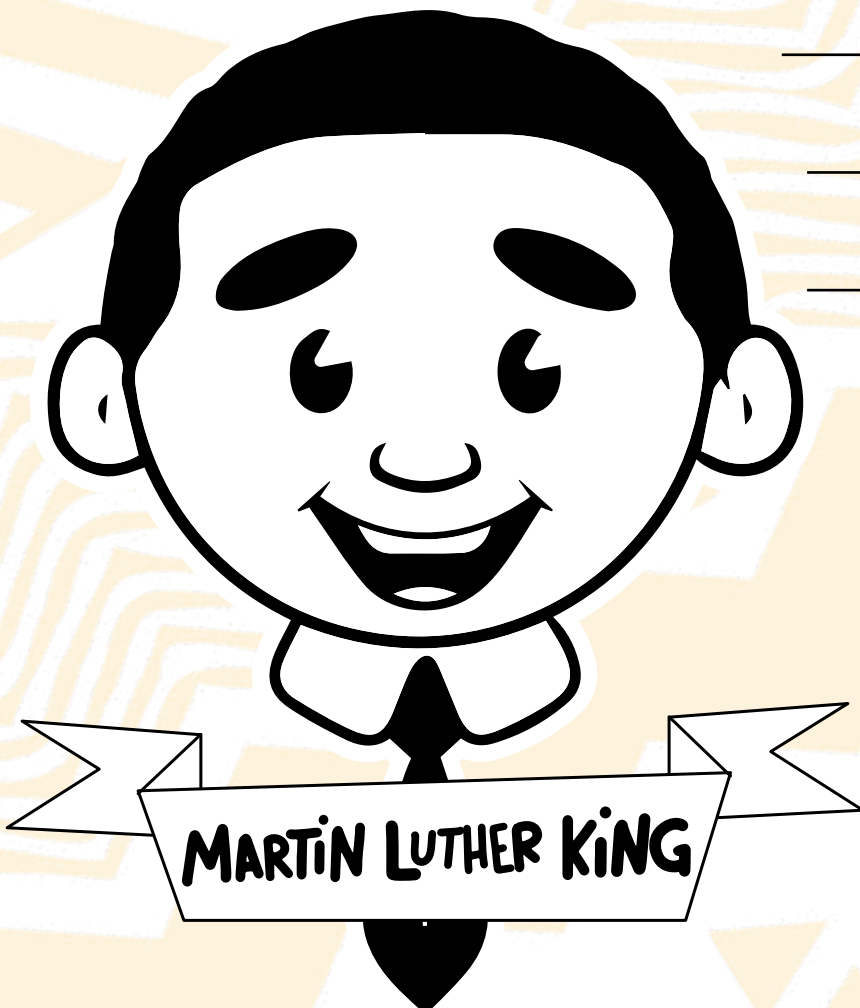
Inspiration: being mentally stimulated to do or feel something

READ & WRITE

1. WHAT DOES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DO TO BECOME AN ACTIVIST?



2. WHY DOES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RESPOND TO SEGREGATED LUNCH COUNTERS WITH SIT-IN PROTESTS?



COLOR IN DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR!



MLK'S TIMELINE

DIRECTIONS: Wow! You've learned so much about Martin Luther King, Jr. Let's put your knowledge to the test! On the lines below, write about the events that happened next to the year. Use the reading above to guide you. Don't forget to draw a picture of the event, in the squares below!

1955

1968



1929

1960

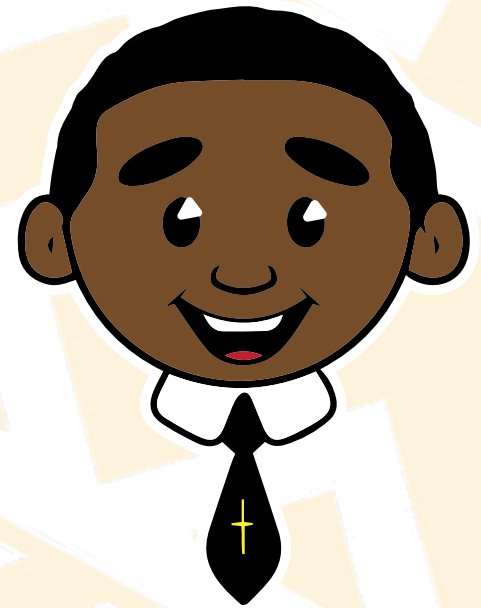
1963

MATH ACTIVITY



Directions: Read and answer each question. Show your work!

The NAACP and Martin Luther King, Jr. received letters of support from the community after Claudette Colvin's protest and food donations for future protests.



1. During the first week, they received 12 letters and 36 boxes of crackers. During the second week, they received 25 letters and 24 boxes of crackers. How many boxes of crackers did they receive in total?

2. They had 40 letters at the NAACP offices and received 47 more letters last month. How many letters are there?



ANSWERS:
1. $36 + 24 = 60$ (They received 60 boxes of crackers in total.)
2. $40 + 47 = 87$ (There are 87 letters of support.)

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.