

Martin Luther King

WORKSHEET A

1. Look at these 16 statements about Dr. Martin Luther King. Tick (✓) the statements you think are true.

Tick (✓) if true

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|--|--------------------------|
| 1) He was named Michael when he was born. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) He was born in California. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) He was well educated and had many university degrees. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) His father was a bus driver. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) He never got married. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6) He was a preacher. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7) He believed all people should be equal. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8) His role model was Mohammad Ali. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9) He travelled more than 6,000,000 miles spreading his message. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10) His famous speech is called 'I Had a Funny Dream Last Night'. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11) In 1963 he was named Man of the Year by <i>Time</i> magazine. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12) He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, but did not win it. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13) Despite taking part in many demonstrations, he was never actually arrested. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14) He was assassinated. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15) His killer's name was Lee Harvey Oswald. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16) The official Martin Luther King Day in the U.S. is on January 15 th . | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Read Worksheet B and check your answers. Correct the false statements.

Martin Luther King

WORKSHEET B

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

On April 4th, 1968, the sound of a rifle shot rang out across Memphis, Tennessee. On the balcony of a small hotel a man lay dying from the assassin’s bullet. He was a 39-year-old preacher named Martin Luther King.

Martin Luther King came into the world on January 15th, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was born he was named Michael but he later changed his name to Martin.

He graduated with a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1948. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree and finally became a Doctor of Philosophy at Boston University in 1955. By this time however, he had already been a Baptist minister (like his father and grandfather) for seven years and had been married for two years, with his wife Coretta expecting their first child.

King had long fought for civil rights and from 1955 until his death he devoted himself to fighting injustice, and particularly pushed for the right of all people, black or white, to have equal opportunities and status.

While he was a student, King had been inspired by the philosophy of Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian whose non-violent social protest provided King with a role model.

Between 1955 and 1968 he travelled over six million miles and spoke on more than 3,000 occasions. He delivered his speeches in the true style of a Baptist preacher, with rich eloquence and passionate conviction. And the people listened. In 1963 he gave his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in front of 250,000 supporters. In the same year he was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine. The following year, at the age of 35, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, making him the second American and the third black man to win the award.

He continued to work tirelessly, getting arrested more than twenty times along the way, until that evening when he leaned over the balcony to speak to his friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson. His assassin, James Earl Ray, took aim and fired.

For many years after his death January 15th, his birthday, became the unofficial Martin Luther King Day. In 1986 President Ronald Reagan declared January 20th the official Martin Luther King Day. It is a national holiday in the United States, a day on which to reflect on the remarkable achievements of a man who inspired others to look for a peaceful, non-violent solution to all their problems. *Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*