

1. He had a dream...

This lesson focuses on Martin Luther King, the famous American civil rights leader who was tragically assassinated in April 1968. He was a superb orator, and perhaps his most well-known speech is the one that contained the lines beginning 'I have a dream...', delivered in Washington DC on 28th August 1963.

Level

Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Tell the class you are going to give them a text which refers to a famous man, whose identity the students are going to have to discover for themselves, and that the text comes in three parts. Each student will be given one part to read.

2. Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a copy of Worksheet A divided into three parts (A, B and C). Give the students at least five minutes to read their part of the text, and encourage them to look up any new vocabulary. Make it clear that you are going to take their pieces of paper away from them when the time is up, and that therefore it is important that they try to remember as much of the texts as possible.

3. Collect the pieces of paper and give each group one copy of Worksheet B. Give them ten minutes to work together to complete the crossword. To refresh the students' memories you could perhaps provide them with a few of the letters from the missing words.

4. When the time is up, give out Worksheet A again so that the students can check any questions they weren't able to answer.

6. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. minister 2. marches 3. racial 4. supported 5. justice 6. southern 7. children
8. restaurants 9. theology 10. speech 11. attended 12. struggle 13. Parks
14. equality 15. economic 16. granted

If all the gaps have been filled correctly, *Martin Luther King* should read from top to bottom.

7. Keeping the students in their groups of three, give each group a copy of Worksheet C. The worksheet contains excerpts from Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech. There are 20 words in bold, some of which have been mixed up and are in the wrong positions. Encourage the students to read the text through individually before attempting the exercise, then tell them to work together in order to put the words back in the right positions where necessary. Some of the 20 words are already in their correct position. Allow at least ten minutes for this exercise.

8. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. beginning 2. asking 3. vote 4. until 5. slums 6. ghettos 7. situation 8. still
9. together 10. justice 11. skin 12. character 13. hands 14. sisters 15. faith
16. struggle 17. freedom 18. children 19. sing 20. God

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.mecca.org/~crights/dream.html>

The entire transcript of the 'I have a dream' speech.

<http://www.wikipedia-mirror.co.za/mlk/>

Video/audio of the 'I have a dream' speech. (Note: start of clip contains quite a lot of footage from before King actually starts speaking.)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/august/28/newsid_2656000/2656805.stm

From the BBC's *On this Day* section, a report on the 'I have a dream speech' written immediately after it was delivered.

<http://manhattan.about.com/od/famousnewyorkers/a/mlknewyork.htm/>

A short biographical text. Accessible to intermediate-level students.

<http://usliberals.about.com/od/patriotactcivilrights/a/MLKWords.htm>

Lots of quotes from King himself. Some very interesting material, but difficult in terms of the English. Upper-intermediate level and above.