

AMERICA'S SPECIAL DAYS

Martin Luther King, JR. Day (Black History Month)

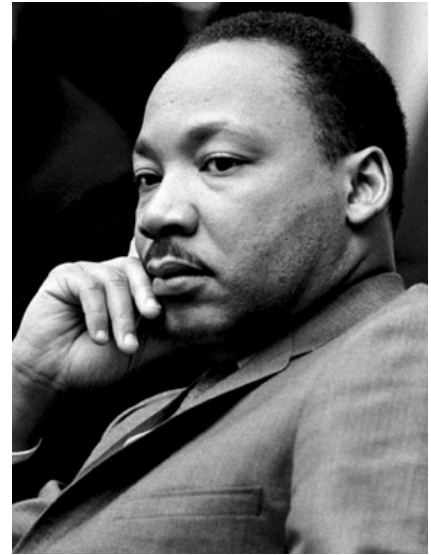
Lesson 2

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The students will identify the important contributions that Martin Luther King, Jr. made to advance equal rights, liberty and justice for all people regardless of race, creed, color or religion.

SYNOPSIS OF THE VIDEO:

America's Special Days focuses on Martin Luther King, Jr. who believed in peaceful protest. He dedicated his entire life to his cause, speaking, preaching and teaching that America should be a place where everyone should be treated fairly. The beginning of the video shows the turmoil of the sixties and the unfair treatment of minorities. Teachers may want to discuss this prior to showing the video. The program features gatherings of school children across the nation paying tribute to Dr. King through song and speech. We visit King's birthplace, church and museums. At the Civil Rights museum, you will see the Rosa Parks bus and a replica of the Woolworth lunch counter "sit-in." We also witness the 1963 peaceful march on Washington, D.C. and the 1964 signing of the Civil Rights Bill by President Johnson, which helped bring King's dream of equality to life. Teacher explanation may be helpful here. The program ends with a challenge to explore avenues of friendship.



SUGGESTED VOCABULARY FOR DISCUSSION:

prejudice	integration	justice
Civil Rights	treated fairly	sit-in
famous	discrimination	commitment
segregation	violent protest	equality
assassin	non-violent protest	Nobel Peace Prize
equal rights	dream	disadvantaged
race	goals	freedom
uniqueness	peace	vision
dedication		

WATCH AND LEARN:

1. When is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrated? (second Monday in January) His real birthday is Jan. 15, 1929. He was killed in 1968. How old was he? (39)
2. What was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream?
3. Where did Martin Luther King, Jr. grow up? (Atlanta, Georgia) Locate it on a map. Also locate Memphis, Tennessee. (Where he was killed and where his museum is located.)
4. What does it mean to be treated fairly?

PRE-TELECAST ACTIVITIES:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a doctor. What is a doctor? Are there different types of doctors? (P,I)
2. Discuss: What does it mean to celebrate differences? (P,I)
3. Read King's "I Have a Dream" speech. See index. (P,I)
4. Bulletin board idea (P,I): Friendship tree-with each leaf listing one of King's "dreams."

CHECK IT OUT!

Francesca says: "My class made a mural of how we think people should treat each other. You or your class make a mural of how you think people should treat each other. CHECK IT OUT!"

POST-TELECAST ACTIVITIES:

1. Learn and sing "We Shall Overcome." Make up your own song about King. **(P,I)**
2. Make a friendship tree with a tree branch planted in a coffee can. Hang leaves on the tree stating King's dreams. Or put positive things about each child in the class. **(P,I)**
3. Write or draw...What would you do to change the world to make it fair?
How about your school, neighborhood or town? **(P,I)**
4. Make a book about Martin Luther King, Jr. Find pictures, articles, etc. Do a play about King's life. **(P,I)**
5. Do a trust walk. (One person, blindfolded, is lead by another who can see. The blindfolded person must put complete trust in his/her partner.) **(P,I)**
6. Make up situations where children have to solve a problem. This could be a math problem, a playground problem, or something simple like what to name your new hamster. Get into groups to solve the problem..make sure everyone has input. **(P,I)**
7. Create a fair/unfair game ...example: everyone wearing green gets special privileges
...discuss feelings on both sides. **(I)**
8. Have two packages, both wrapped very differently, but with the same thing inside. Talk about it. **(P,I)**
9. Do the "Orange" experiment. Give every student an orange. Find the similarities in each orange; find th differences. Personalize your orange and say nice things about it. Finally, eat the orange ...they all taste the same! **(P,I)**
10. Have a party for Martin Luther King, Jr...make a card, have cake and celebrate his ideas. **(P,I)**
11. Do school exchange with a school different from yours. **(P,I)**
12. Have a multicultural fair. (Copicat, May/June issue 1994.) **(P,I)**
13. Create a timeline of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, events or places. **(P,I)**
14. Discuss the Nobel Peace Prize. Give a school peace prize! **(I)**
15. Role play solving a problem without violence. Discuss: How do you disagree respectfully? **(P,I)**
16. Interview a person of another race or culture. Have visitors of different races or cultures come to your class to speak, visit, or maybe read a book. **(P,I)**
17. Make posters of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and his dreams and accomplishments. **(P,I)**
18. Write a recipe for peace, or make a Bill of Rights for kids. **(P,I)**
19. Make friendship boxes. Write to the American Red Cross, National Headquarters, International/Youth Services, Attn: Friendship Boxes, Washington, D.C. 20006 for details. **(P,I)**
20. Connect with pen pals from another culture. Write to World Wide Pen Pals, 1690 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 for details. **(P,I)**
21. Form a human chain of unity around your classroom or school to commemorate freedom, justice, liberty and freedom. **(P,I)**

BOOK LIST:

- About Martin Luther King, Jr., by Mary Virginia Fox, Endow Publishing, 1989.
I Have a Dream -The Life and Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Jim Haskins, Millbrook Press, 1992. (K-3) Kid's
Multicultural Art Book, by Alexandra Terzian, William Publishing Co., 1993. (1-800-234-8791)
Martin Luther King Day, by Linda Lowery, Carolrhoda Books, 1987.
Martin Luther King, Jr., A Man Who Changed Things, by Carol Greene, Childrens Press, 1989. (K-3)
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter's, by John Sloped, Lathrop Lee and Shepard, 1987.
(An African tale about two very different sisters - A Reading Rainbow book. K-6)