

Martin Luther King, Jr.

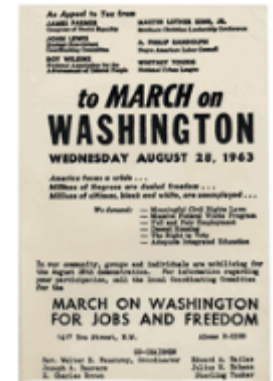
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2014 marks the 51st anniversary of Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech, delivered on August 28, 1963!

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Martin Luther King, Jr., an icon of the Civil Rights movement](#), is celebrated for his achievements and honored by our nation on the third Monday of every January. To help you incorporate primary sources and lesson plans in your classroom, Thinkfinity offers this special collection dedicated to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Explore the educational resources below and share with your students the impact of Dr. King during his lifetime and how his work still resonates in our society today.



"...Let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring, and when this happens...when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'" -- Martin Luther King, Jr.
Image: National Museum of American History-Behring Center, Smithsonian Institution

Recommended Resources

- [Classroom Activities to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) with resources specifically focused on Dr. King and texts he wrote, biographical activities you can use to explore Dr. King's life and writing, and family activities that relate to Dr. King (Grades: K-12)
- [Celebrate the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) with lessons and activities for your classroom. (Grades: K-12)
- [View the actual flier](#) announcing the 1963 March on Washington. (Grades K-12)
- Encourage students to explore the "[I Have Dream](#)" [speech](#) and brainstorm ways they can help achieve educational goals. (Grades 7-12)
- Show students how the [Kennedy Administration impacted the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement](#). (Grades 9-12)

Lessons and Activities

[How Big Are Martin's Big Words? Thinking Big about the Future](#)

ReadWriteThink | Lesson | K-2

Inspired by the book *Martin's Big Words*, students explore information on Dr. King to think about his "big" words. Then they write about their own "big" words and dreams.

[Martin Luther King, Jr. and Me: Identifying with a Hero](#)

ReadWriteThink | Lesson | K-2

This lesson provides ideas for celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by encouraging students to explore the connections between Dr. King and themselves through journaling and inquiry-based research.

[Word Art with King's Words](#)

History Explorer | Activity | K-4

Examine one or more of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letters or speeches and turn powerful words and phrases into word art using the online Wordle tool. Part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and OurStory: Nonviolence resource set.

[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nonviolence](#)

History Explorer | Activity | K-5

Children will learn about Dr. King's life and legacy through a reading guide on the children's book *Martin's Big Words* and a variety of activities that examine Dr. King's speeches and the protest methods of the civil rights movement.

[I Have A Dream: Celebrating the Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

EDSITEment | Lesson | K-12

Explore lessons about Dr. King, the Civil Rights Movement, and the administrations of presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

[Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Teaching Resources](#)

Science NetLinks | Collection | K-12

Explore a collection of teaching resources related to Martin Luther King, Jr.

[What Is a Civil Right?](#)

Wonderopolis | Video/Activity | K-12

Students will learn what a civil right is, why we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and which civil rights they value the most.

[To March or Not to March?](#)

History Explorer | Activity | 3-5

In this activity, children pretend to be an American during 1963 and decide whether or not to join the March on Washington. Children base

their choice on information gathered through guided observation of a handbill from the march. Part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and OurStory: Nonviolence resource set.

[March on Washington Handbill](#)

History Explorer | Artifact | 3-12

Flier announcing the 1963 March on Washington.

[Word Mover for "I Have a Dream"](#)

ReadWriteThink | Interactive | 3-12

This interactive invites students to create a found poem by grabbing tiles of words from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.](#)

ReadWriteThink | Activity | 7-12

Students explore the "I Have a Dream" Foundation's website and brainstorm ways they can help themselves or others at their school achieve their educational dreams.

[JFK, Freedom Riders and the Civil Rights Movement](#)

EDSITEment | Lesson | 9-12

This lesson will help students learn more about these members of the grassroots civil rights struggle through the use of primary documents, audio sources, and photographs.