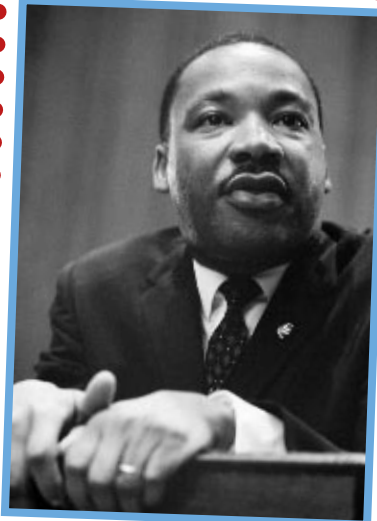


Martin Luther King

Reverend **Martin Luther King Jr.** (1929-1968) was the main leader of the **American Civil Rights movement** and one of the most famous political speakers of all times. Leader of the non-violent movement for black equality, King followed the ideas of the Indian leader Mahatma Ghandi. King believed in non-violent civil disobedience, sit-ins, boycotts and peaceful protest marches to express his belief.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

In December 1955, Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to give her seat to a white person on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was arrested and King organized the famous **Montgomery Bus Boycott** against city buses. During the following years King was arrested many times, but he became more and more famous, giving great strength to the movement for black integration. From 1957 to 1968, King



travelled over 6,000,000 miles and gave over 25,000 speeches against social discrimination. In the summer of 1963 King led a huge peaceful march through Washington to demand better jobs for the poor. In front of the Lincoln Memorial, he gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

The Nobel Prize

In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his efforts against racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

He was assassinated on April 4th, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1986 Martin Luther King Day (the 3rd Monday in January) was declared a national holiday in the United States.



Speaking about people:

"A man who won't die for something is not fit to live."

Speaking about freedom:

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?
- 2 What did he share with Mahatma Ghandi?
- 3 Who was Rosa Parks and why is she famous?
- 4 What did King do in reaction to her arrest?
- 5 Was King ever arrested? Why, in your opinion?

- 6 Who is the youngest person in history to have been awarded the Nobel Prize?
- 7 What happened on April 4th, 1968?
- 8 Do you think that black people in the USA share the same rights as Whites nowadays? Why? Why not? Give examples explaining your point of view.