



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



EARLY LIFE

Martin Luther King Jr was an American activist who became the leader for the Civil Rights Movement. He defended the Americans with African descent and fought against discrimination.

Born: 15th January 1929, Atlanta, Georgia

Assassinated: 4th April 1968, aged 39 years, Memphis, Tennessee

Martin's parents initially named him Michael King but in 1934, his father changed his name to Martin Luther King Junior. He was the middle child. When King was a child, he befriended a white boy whose father owned a business near his family's home. When the boys were six, they started school: King had to attend a school for African Americans, and the other boy went to one for white children. He was married to Coretta Scott and had four children: Yolanda, Martin, Dexter and Bernice.

ADULT LIFE

King attended Booker T. Washington High School, and became known for his public-speaking ability and was part of the school's debate team. In 1948, King graduated at the age of 19 from Morehouse with a B.A. in Sociology. At the age of 25 in 1954, King was called as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

He helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 385 days from 1st December 1955 until 20th December 1956. This involved black people refusing to use public transport.

On 28th August 1963, King represented Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). The march took place in Washington, D.C. 250,000 participants, making it was one of the largest political rallies for human rights in US history.

Martin Luther King delivered the famous 'I Have a Dream' speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to a gathering of over 250,000 people.

In its January 1964 issue, Time named Martin Luther King, Jr., "Man of the Year" for 1963 recognizing him as a fearless leader who fought to bring equality in America.

Martin Luther King organized and led many marches for the voting right of black people, desegregation, labour rights and other basic civil rights. King was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's success with non-violent activism.



On October 14, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for leading non-violent resistance to racial prejudice in the U.S. At the age of thirty-five, he was the youngest recipient of the award at the time.

Tragically, Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated, on a balcony, in a motel in Memphis by James Earl Ray. A crowd of over 300,000 people attended his funeral.

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." – Martin Luther King Jr. 1947.

HIS LEGACY

Martin Luther King inspired millions to join the Civil Rights Movement fighting for racial equality and spread the need for non-violent resistance.

FIND OUT MORE

'I Have a Dream' Speech <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What year did Martin receive the Nobel Peace Prize?
2. How many children did Martin have?
3. What year was he born?
4. How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?
5. In which city was Martin Luther King Jr assassinated?
6. At what age did he become a pastor?
7. What year did Time magazine name him "Man of the Year"?
8. What school did he attend?
9. What team did he belong to in High School?
10. What year did he die?