

Famous African Americans - Martin Luther King, Jr.

by ReadWorks



Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most important figures in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. There is a national holiday in his honor that is celebrated every January. His famous "I Have a Dream" speech is still talked about today. He is the hero of civil rights in America.

King was a Baptist minister. He had an incredible ability to speak and be heard. He was expressive and powerful with his words. He gained the support of thousands of blacks and whites. He became famous throughout the world.

In 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for his civil rights work. Ironically, his work for peace resulted in violent reactions. On several occasions, people threw rocks at King. Some even went so far as to bomb his family's house in Montgomery, Alabama. But the worst act of violence ended King's life. He was shot and killed at the age of 39.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., is famous because of his

- A. work in civil rights.
- B. being from Montgomery.
- C. speaking voice.
- D. father, Martin Luther King, Sr.

2. Which of these answers is NOT an effect of King's work in civil rights?

- A. King has a national holiday in his honor.
- B. King became a Baptist minister.
- C. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- D. King was attacked by people who disagreed with him.

3. Based on the passage, it is most likely that

- A. King believed that violence was the answer to civil rights.
- B. everyone loved Martin Luther King, Jr.
- C. many people would gather to listen to King speak.
- D. not very many people have heard King's speeches.

4. Read the sentences: "He had an incredible ability to speak and be heard. He was expressive and powerful with his words."

In this passage, the word **expressive** means

- A. shy and quiet
- B. communicating feelings
- C. calmly listening
- D. causing sadness

5. The main idea of this passage is that

- A. many people disliked Martin Luther King, Jr.
- B. Martin Luther King, Jr. was important in civil rights.
- C. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot at the age of 39.
- D. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister.

6. When did Martin Luther King, Jr. win the Nobel Peace Prize?

7. Why was Martin Luther King, Jr. shot and killed?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

There were violent reactions to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work, _____ he talked about peace.

- A. so
- B. even though
- C. before
- D. because

9. Vocabulary Word: support: to agree with, or help someone succeed.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:
