

TECHNOLOGY

Grades
3-5

by | D. Jackson Maxwell, EdD

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WEBQUEST

Not all children like to read the same type of literature or enjoy the same activities. It is important for Library Media Specialists to think innovatively as they look to collaborate with classroom teachers, diversify curricular offerings, provide library-based services, and stay current with new technologies and trends in order to better serve their patrons.

A historical or biographical story, such as the one presented in the following webquest in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, offers a fun research opportunity to reach students who tend to gravitate toward technology and/or nonfiction. The background story focuses on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s mission of peaceful change, his legacy, and the holiday we celebrate in his honor. It will give students context before they begin the webquest, which introduces useful websites and exercises essential Internet research skills.

Consider this activity not only for your students, but as a template for yourself, should you wish to create similar theme-based webquests in the future.

WEBQUEST ANSWER KEY

1. Video portrays Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington; subjective answers will vary.
- 2 (a). 1964
- 2 (b). Michael Luther King, Jr.
- 3 (a). Coretta Scott King
- 3 (b). Four
4. Abigail Kelley Foster
5. Love
6. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
7. "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

Bonus: (Answers will vary)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- *I Have a Dream* by Jim Haskins. Milbrook Press, 1992.
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- *Learning About Dignity from the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Jeanne Strazzabosco. PowerKids Press, 1996.
- *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by David A. Adler. Holiday House, 1989.
- *March On!: The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World* by Christine King Farris. Scholastic, 2008.
- *Martin Luther King Jr.: The Life of a Civil Rights Leader* by Gary Jeffrey. Rosen Publishing, 2007.
- *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Leader for Civil Rights* by Michael A. Schuman. Enslow Publishers, 1996.
- *My Dream of Martin Luther King* by Faith Ringgold. Crown Publishers, 1995.
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D. Jackson Maxwell, EdD is an educational consultant and Library Media Specialist for Downtown Elementary School in Memphis, Tennessee, and can be reached at djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: A MAN OF PEACE

On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. M. L., as his family called him, spent a great deal of time in the Ebenezer Baptist Church where his grandfather was pastor and his father was assistant pastor. As a child, he enjoyed singing in church, playing games, and participating in sports. However, M. L. soon learned about discrimination. When it was time for him to start school, he and his friends were separated; M. L. went to a school that was for African Americans only, while many of his friends went to an all-Caucasian school. M. L., like his father before him, vowed to fight racial prejudice and injustice.

M. L. was good at school and began attending Morehouse College when he was 15 years old. After graduating with a degree in sociology, he attended Crozer Theological Seminary and the University of Massachusetts, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree and a PhD. While in school, he met a music student named Coretta Scott. They fell in love, and were married in 1953. Shortly afterwards, Dr. King accepted a job at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court made a ruling on a case called *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka*. The court said that “separate but equal” school facilities went against the United States Constitution. After the Supreme Court made this decision, an organization called the NAACP (the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) began challenging other segregation practices.



The next year in Montgomery, where Dr. King lived, an African American woman named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a Caucasian male. Ms. Parks was taken into custody by police, found guilty of disorderly conduct, and fined. To protest this injustice, Dr. King advocated the use of non-violent activism and helped organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which demanded that everyone, no matter a person's race, be allowed to sit in any bus seat. For more than a year, supporters of the boycott refused to ride the buses in Montgomery, and the bus company lost money. Their case went to the U.S. District Court, where it was decided that segregation on public buses is unconstitutional.

After this victory, Dr. King became a recognized leader of the Civil Rights movement. He believed that “the chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.” Dr. King studied the activism of a man named Gandhi, who helped win independence for India through peaceful protests. Dr. King, too, adopted nonviolent tactics such as sit-ins to demand equal access to restaurants, and marching with workers to achieve equal pay for equal work. He was arrested many times, and he wrote of these experiences and more in a public letter to local clergymen, which is now known as *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

In 1963, Dr. King organized the March on Washington where 250,000 people of all races gathered on the Washington Mall to listen to speeches and songs demanding equality for all. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. As a result of Dr. King's work and those who marched with him, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson enacted Civil Rights legislation including the Voters Rights Act.

In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. By the late 1960's, Dr. King expanded his vision for equality and peace to include fighting to end poverty, and protesting America's involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1968, while preparing to march with striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King was assassinated. As a part of his funeral in Atlanta, Dr. King's casket was placed on a simple cart and pulled through the streets by mules in honor of his work on behalf of the poor.

Although he died victim of senseless violence, Dr. King will always be remembered as a man of peace. His legacy lives on and is publicly honored every year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, held on the third Monday in January.

WEBQUEST

Read through the questions below. Then, go online and follow the directions in order answer to each question.

1. Go to www.google.com and click “video” at the top-left corner of your monitor. Then, Google video keyword search: “I Have a Dream Speech” and then select the video from teachertube.com. Describe the scene on August 28, 1963. What do you see and hear?



- 2(a) Go to the Nobel Prize homepage at <http://nobelprize.org>. Click on the gray “Nobel Prizes” tab, then click “Nobel Peace Prize,” and then click “All Nobel Peace Prizes.” Find Martin Luther King, Jr.’s name. In which year was he awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?

- 2(b) Click the year Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The link will take you to a page that shows you a picture of him. Click his name, which appears right above his picture. In the “Biographical” section, read the article about Dr. King. What was the name Martin Luther King, Jr. was given when he was born?

- 3(a) Explore the homepage of <http://www.thekingcenter.org>. Who established the King Center as a living memorial and to advance Dr. King’s belief in justice, equality, and peace?

- 3(b) On the homepage, find the picture of Coretta Scott King (hint: look carefully—the picture isn’t immediately easy to see). When you find her picture, click on it. It will link to information about her. Read through the information. How many children did the Kings have?

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4. Go to: <http://www.infoplease.com>. Type in the keyword search: "Martin Luther King, Jr." Scroll down the list of links until you find "January 15 Birthdays: Martin Luther King, Jr." Look at the names listed under the link. Research them, and name the abolitionist (a person opposed who slavery) who was born on the same day as Dr. King.

5. Go to <http://www.brainyquote.com> and key word search: "Martin Luther King, Jr." Select the first link from the results. Read through Dr. King's quotes and find the answer to fill in the blank "At the center of non-violence stands the principle of _____."
6. Go to the Wikipedia homepage at <http://en.wikipedia.com> and keyword search: "Martin Luther King, Jr." What is the name of the Civil Rights organization Dr. King helped create in 1957?
7. Go to <http://en.wikiquote.org>. Search "Martin Luther King, Jr." Read the quotes. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in response to a charge that he was disturbing the peace, what was Dr. King's statement about "true peace"?

Bonus Question:

Go to <http://www.amazon.com> and find the titles and authors of three books on Dr. King. List them:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

