

"The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr."

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and civil rights activist who played a key role in the American civil rights movement. He was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, and grew up in a time when African Americans faced segregation and discrimination in many areas of life.

King was inspired by his Christian beliefs and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and believed in the power of nonviolence to bring about social change. He studied theology and became a minister, and in the 1950s, he began to lead civil rights campaigns against segregation and discrimination.



One of the most famous events in King's career was the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a protest against segregation on public buses in Alabama. The boycott lasted for over a year and ended with a Supreme Court decision that declared segregation on buses to be unconstitutional.

In 1963, King led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In this speech, King called for an end to racism and for equality for all people. He said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

King's work for civil rights and racial equality was recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, when he was 35. At the time, he was the youngest person to receive this award. Tragically, King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was a great loss for the civil rights movement and for the nation. However, his legacy lives on, and he is remembered as a hero and a symbol of hope for people around the world.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Questions:

1. When was Martin Luther King Jr. born?
2. What did Martin Luther King Jr. believe in as a means of bringing about social change?
3. What was the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
4. Where did Martin Luther King Jr. give his famous "I Have a Dream" speech?
5. What did Martin Luther King Jr. call for in his "I Have a Dream" speech?
6. How old was Martin Luther King Jr. when he received the Nobel Peace Prize?
7. When and where was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?
8. How is Martin Luther King Jr. remembered today?

