

Dr. King's Dream

Grades K-2

Iwillson

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THINK TOGETHER

- **He believed in himself and his dreams.** It took an amazing amount of courage to act as he did, to be peaceful in response to violence. I think that self-confidence is critical to a person being able to take the “high road” and that’s an important thing to remember about our students.
- **Dr. King lived by the Golden Rule** (treat others as you wish to be treated). While a lot of the struggle for Civil Rights is hard to explain to younger students, the Golden Rule is pretty simple. In following the Golden Rule, Dr. King showed that you can do what
- **Dr. King was well educated.** His education not only helped him to stand up to **anyone** on an equal intellectual plane, it also broke stereotypes about black Americans. It gave him an enlightened view on how to achieve social justice and equity, and it helped him to plan a response to injustice that was right for his moment in history. But possibly most importantly, it gave him the ability to articulate the case for “Dream” of equality for all that has made him a hero for our time.
- **Dr. King succeeded by convincing people to work together.** His actions alone would not have resulted in the reforms that were gained in his time. This could not have been easy. Convincing people to do not just **something** but the **right thing** took an amazing leader.

There is nothing like teaching a subject to make you more connected yourself. I hope you have an inspiring month!

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**OUR LIVES
BEGIN TO END
THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT
ABOUT THINGS
THAT MATTER.**
—MARTIN LUTHER KING

Dr. King's Dream

How would you feel?

OBJECTIVE: Students will gain knowledge of and empathy for the injustices of Segregation by simulating unfair rules for certain groups of people.

Activity 1 of 3

Materials/Equipment

- Copies of the handout (next page); one for each group
- Pen or pencil

Time

45 min.

Development

Tasks

Introduction

Let students know that we are going to be talking about a time when people were **not** treated as equal and worthy of respect.

Warm-up

Let students know that we will play a game called Blue and Green. In this game, the law is that all people should be treated equally.

Lesson

Let your class know that they are now known as the Blue group that the Blue group is special. In fact, the Blue group is so special that they get to be in charge of another class (pick any class) which will be called the Green group. **Because they are special, they get to make all the rules for the Green group and the Green Group has to do whatever they say.** Remind them of the Equality law, but let them know that people break the law all the time and that the Green group can't do anything about it. Nothing bad will happen to them if they do break the law. Use the following sheet to get them to make choices for the Green group.

Extension

Ask students if their choices treated the Green group as people who were equal to them? Did they treat the Green group as people who deserved respect?

Now announce that since they, the Blue group, are so special and such great rule makers, their choices will now apply to themselves. Read them back their choices and let them think about how they would like to be treated this way.

Debrief

Let students know that we are going to be talking about Martin Luther King Jr. In his time, black Americans were treated like the Green group. The law said that they had to be treated equally, but white Americans sometimes made rules that treated blacks unfairly. Martin Luther King Jr. helped many black Americans stand up for their right to equal treatment.

Gist of the activity:

Students will role play being a "special" class that gets to make the rules for other classes and identify with the effects of unfair privilege at others' expense.

Directions: Explain the situations to your students, then ask what they would do. If they don't agree, write down the different ideas and let students vote for them.

Blue and Green

| Situation | What Would You Do? |
|--|--------------------|
| Sometimes there are special snacks but there aren't enough for everyone. Who gets the special snacks, Blue or Green? | |
| When the school meets for assemblies, there are just enough chairs for one group to sit comfortably. The other group will have to stand. Who gets the chairs, Blue or Green? | |
| The afterschool program will be getting a new teacher, and he is really the best teacher ever. Which group will get him, Blue or Green? | |
| The afterschool program is going to have students take responsibilities afterschool. One group will make cookies for the teachers and one group will get to clean the bathrooms. Which group will clean the bathrooms, Blue or Green? | |
| The afterschool program has 10 pizzas to give to the Blue and Green groups, but they say that the Green group has to get some, at least one. How many pizzas will you give to Blue and how many to Green? | |
| The Green group does not like your rules and has put up signs all around school saying that the Blue group is not fair. You can let them have their signs or you can have everyone who made a sign run laps for 3 hours. What will you do? | |
| The Green group has decided that you should not be allowed to make all the rules and now they want to talk to the principal. Between them and the office, though, is a hose and someone says you could spray them all with water so they wouldn't go see the principal. Would you do this to keep all your special privileges? | |

Dr. King's Dream

What Happened

OBJECTIVE: Students will recognize that things have changed for the better.

Activity 2 of 3

Materials/Equipment

- Clean copy paper, one per student
- Pens, pencils, crayons

Time

30 min.

Development

Tasks

Introduction

Ask students to think back on the Blue and Green exercise. Did any students vote to be unfair to the Green group? How do you think it would feel to have to live with unfair rules?

Warm-up

Ask students if they were treated unfairly, what would they do about it?

Lesson

Read the passage on the following page, showing how Dr. King was able to change unfair rules. Then have students make pictures of "Then and Now" to illustrate the change that has happened.

Extension

Ask students if they like the way things are today better than what they used to be? Have them try to describe the ways in which things are better.

Debrief

Use the What's Important About That debrief? Why does it matter that people are treated more equally now?

Gist of the activity:

Students will make a pictures of "Then and Now" showing how things have changed as a result of Dr. King's actions.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 29, 1929. At that time black Americans did not have the same rights as white Americans. When he was very young, he had a friend in his neighborhood who was white and the boys played together. When they went to school, however, Martin was not allowed to go to the same school as his friend. His friend had to go to a school just for white children and Martin had to go to a school just for black children. Then they were not allowed to play together anymore.

As he grew up, he noticed other things that were unfair to blacks. Black people were required to give up their seats on the bus if white people wanted them. Some places had drinking fountains that blacks were not allowed to use, and some restaurants would not serve them.

Martin Luther King went to school until he earned the highest degree anyone can have, and after that he was called Dr. King. He had studied to be a pastor at a church, but he realized he also wanted to help black people stand up for their rights.

Dr. King had a gift for saying great things. He used this gift to convince his friends to work together to get laws changed, but to do it in a calm and peaceful way. While many of his friends were scared or angry, he asked them not to shout, to get mad, or to fight, but to peacefully ask for the rights they deserved. He asked them to stop riding busses that told them to sit in the back. He asked them to gather together to peacefully protest unfair laws. He asked them to sit down at restaurants that only served whites and ask to be served. These things made people mad at him, but eventually they worked. Dr. King and his friends were able to get the unfair laws changed.

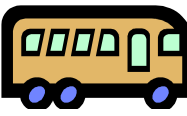

Dr. King was kind and respectful to everyone, even when they weren't nice to him. Many very unfair things happened to him. People said mean things to him, they bombed his house, they threatened him, and they arrested him and sent him to jail. But no matter what they did, he always treated people well. Many, many people came to admire him for always doing the right thing, no matter how hard it was.



Dr. King was very smart and wrote many famous speeches. His most famous speech is known as the "I Have a Dream" speech. He dreamed that one day all people would be treated as equals. He dreamed that not only would the laws be fair to all people, that all people would be kind to one another whatever the color of their skin. He dreamed of a better world.



Dr. King was shot by someone who didn't like him or his ideas. He died when he was only 39 years old. We remember him as a hero, as someone who stood up for what he believed and set an example we could all follow.

“Then and Now” pictures examples

(Please forgive the graphics. Your students will make pictures that are much better!)

| Then | Now |
|---|--|
|  <p data-bbox="191 634 792 709">Black people were supposed to give the best seats to white people.</p> |  <p data-bbox="1045 680 1208 714">That's illegal!</p> |

| Then | Now |
|---|--|
|  <p data-bbox="207 1094 776 1169">Black people couldn't go to the same schools as white people.</p> |  <p data-bbox="850 1129 1409 1205">People go to the school closest to their house, whatever color their skin is.</p> |

| Then | Now |
|---|---|
|  <p data-bbox="191 1577 792 1652">Some restaurants and drinking fountains were only for white people to use.</p> |  <p data-bbox="850 1583 1409 1659">Public places are for everyone, no matter what color their skin is.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Dr. King's Dream What Is Your Dream | | Activity 3 of 3 |
| OBJECTIVE: Students will think about their own vision for a better world. | | |
| Materials/Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper cut into dream or caption bubbles (1 per student) • Pens, pencils, and crayons | | Time 40 min. |
| Development | Tasks | |
| Introduction | Ask students think see if they can think of something that would make life better for their friends, family, neighborhood and school. | |
| Warm-up | Talk about the things that were important to Dr. King. What did he feel would make life better for his friends and family? For all black Americans? | |
| Lesson | Talk about the "I Have a Dream" speech. Notice what kinds of things he said would make the world a better place. Have students talk about and write down their "dreams" for a better world. | |
| Extension | Talk about the world today. People can no longer make laws making some people sit at the back of the bus or use different schools, but do people still judge others by the color of their skin? | |
| Debrief | Use the "What's Important About That" debrief for the lesson. | |
| Gist of the activity: Students will write down their dreams for a better world. | | |

Dr. King made a very famous speech called "I Have a Dream." These are some of the things he said were his dream:

- That the government would live up to the promise of treating all people equally, instead of treating some better than others.
- That white and black people be friends instead of some people feeling like they were better than others.
- That people would judge each other by the good things they do and not the color of their skin.

"My Dream" examples:

