



Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929, Martin Luther King became the face of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s when he organized and led the Montgomery bus boycotts, the 1963 Birmingham protest, and the March on Washington, where he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. MLK is the first African-American and one of the few non-presidents to be memorialized on the National Mall. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn about MLK’s early life and later actions as a civil rights leader.
READ: <https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr>

1. What happened in his early years that may have lead him to become a civil rights activist?

2. Summarize what happened during the Montgomery bus boycott.

3. Give additional examples of how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., took a peaceful approach in standing up for civil rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Washington, D.C.



Images and video clips from MLK's life will help illuminate his struggles and accomplishments.

WATCH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ank52Zi_S0

4. What did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his family have to endure while he was fighting for civil rights?

5. How did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., die?



Learn more about the history and background of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

READ: <https://washington.org/visit-dc/martin-luther-king-jr-memorial>

6. What is special about the address of this memorial?

7. What was the architect trying to convey with the design of the memorial?

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Washington, D.C.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*



Martin Luther King was a master orator and many of his words still resonate today.
READ: <https://www.nps.gov/mlkm/learn/quotations.htm>

1. Pick two of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s quotations from the memorial website, write them down, and explain what you think he meant by those quotes.

2. Imagine that Dr. King was still alive today. What do you think he would say or do about the racial tensions that still exist in America today?

3. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is one of the newest memorials in Washington, D.C. Which other African-American or civil rights leaders do you think should have a memorial in Washington, D.C.? Make a persuasive argument for this person's memorial and describe what it would look like.