

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Podcast Length: 15:59

Character Value: **Courage**

Health Message: **Learning new things increases brain power**

## Synopsis

Today's Walking Classroom podcast looks at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his impact on the civil rights movement during the 1960s. Dr. King was a powerful and influential leader known as a believer in nonviolent protests. Many changes occurred as a result of Dr. King's efforts, and his impact on society was felt long after his death.

## Objectives

- Summarize key moments in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.
- Discuss Dr. King's commitment to non-violent protest.
- Describe and evaluate the lasting impacts that King's efforts have had on our country.

## Procedure

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

- Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast).
  - segregated (adjective):** separated by race  
*Many schools, churches and restaurants in the South used to be **segregated**.*
  - discrimination (noun):** the act of treating someone differently based on the color of their skin  
*Black people experienced much **discrimination** before and during the Civil Rights Movement.*
  - racist (noun):** someone who believes that people of different races do not deserve equal rights  
*James Earl Ray, the man who shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a **racist**.*
- Build background by asking students, "Who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? What do you know about him?"
- Allow time for discussion.
- Podcast preview: "How many of you have stood up for someone that you saw being treated unfairly? Today we're going to learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the tremendous influence he contributed to ending segregation and racial discrimination in America. Ready? Let's go!"
- Walk!

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

### 1. What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?

- ✓ *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a minister, was one of the most well-known leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. His leadership was influenced by Mohandas Gandhi's principles of nonviolent protest.*
- ✓ *The writings and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" and the "I Have a Dream" speech, greatly influenced the direction of the Civil Rights Movement.*
- ✓ *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a great example of how one person's actions can lead and inspire a movement.*

### 2. Why was Dr. King such a powerful and influential leader?

- ✓ *Dr. King was a charismatic and intelligent man whose writings and speeches inspired others to fight for a better America.*

### 3. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. showed great courage in becoming one of the leading figures of the Civil Rights Movement. In fact, he died for it.

#### a. Why is it important to stand up for what we believe in, even if our views are unpopular?

- ✓ *Suggestion: Standing up for what we believe in defines us, builds self-confidence, and it shows that we have courage. People will respect you for standing up for your beliefs.*

#### b. Do you think being a hero requires an element of fear and courage?

- ✓ *Allow students to share.*

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Comprehension Quiz

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was
  - a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
  - a minister.
  - both a and b.
- Dr. King believed that the best way to fight for his cause was
  - by physically fighting against the people who were treating him and other people unfairly.
  - by organizing non-violent protests.
  - by relying on prayers and God to make the necessary changes.
- Which of the following is an example of segregation from the podcast?
  - Some white people supported Dr. King's cause and fought for the rights of African-Americans.
  - Black children were not allowed to ride the bus and were forced to walk to school.
  - Dr. King grew up playing baseball and was a member of the Boy Scouts.
- Discriminate means
  - to inspire.
  - to treat differently and unfairly.
  - to forbid.
- According to the podcast, what word would best describe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?
  - misunderstood
  - fearful
  - determined
- Which of the following is a fact about Dr. King?
  - He was the most influential leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
  - He was arrested for refusing to give up his seat on a bus.
  - He was the youngest man and the second African-American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Number the events in the order in which they happened. (1, 2, 3)  
\_\_\_\_ Dr. King leads a protest against the bus company that had Rosa Parks arrested.  
\_\_\_\_ As a child, Dr. King experiences discrimination while shopping for shoes with his father.  
\_\_\_\_ Dr. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington D.C.
- Why was Dr. King such a powerful and influential leader?
  - His writings and speeches inspired others to fight for a better America.
  - He spoke and wrote about things that no one else was thinking about at that time.
  - People were afraid to go against him because he was such a threatening presence.
- Our brains make new connections as we learn.
  - true
  - false
- Learning new things increases the power and potential of our brains.
  - true
  - false