

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 46



Today's lesson is about Martin Luther King Jr.: Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent civil rights leader. He worked to end segregation in America and ensure equal treatment of all citizens. Segregation was a system of separating people by their race. Many places in America used to have separate bathrooms, water fountains, and even schools for different races. Martin Luther King Jr. fought against this unfair and unequal treatment all of his adult life. Martin Luther King was also a minister and used his leadership role in his church as a way to bring people to the Civil Rights cause. Martin Luther King Jr. is famously known for his peaceful protests against

segregation. King used marches and sit-ins as ways to convince people that segregation was wrong. Martin Luther King Jr. is also known for his "I Have a Dream" speech that he gave during a march. Sadly, Martin Luther King Jr., met an untimely death, when a white man who did not agree with King's visions of equal treatment, shot him. However, Americans still celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions to American Civil Rights each year on the third Monday in January.

Sticky Situation: Imagine you and a friend are playing on your classroom's carpet. A student from another class walks in and says that you aren't allowed to play on the carpet and that only students from his class are allowed to play on the carpet. How would you feel about being told you couldn't play on the carpet? How would you respond to this student? What actions could you take so that you would be allowed to play on the carpet?

Activity: Research American civil rights and make a list. Which rights do you think are most important? Why are these the most important? Do you think that all citizens would be treated equal without these rights? Why or why not?

Bonus Activity: Click on the following link and listen to Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech. <https://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety> If Martin Luther King Jr. was alive today, do you think he would be happy with the way America turned-out? Do you think his goals have been met?