

MARTIN LUTHER KING



KEY VOCABULARY

Segregation	The practise of separating people according to groups, especially racial groups.
Civil Rights	The rights given by a nation's government to all its citizens.
Protest	A formal action of a group who want something to be changed.
Peaceful	Free from threat or violence.
Harmony	Being in agreement, unity.
Discrimination	The act of treating someone unfairly.
Equality	The condition, fact, or quality of being equal.

INSPIRATION– YEAR 5

THE BIG QUESTION

What will make our communities more respectful?

STICKY KNOWLEDGE – MARTIN LUTHER KING

When Martin Luther King was growing up, life was hard for African Americans. The Southern United States operated under the 'Jim Crow laws' that kept black and white people separated in what was called 'segregation'. Black people had different schools, toilets and even sections of the bus to white people. They were also denied the right to vote in elections.

His first major role in the Civil Rights Movement came in 1955, after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus. Martin helped to organise a boycott of the city's buses. After 381 days of protest, a court finally ruled that such segregation laws should no longer be recognised.

Martin was a great believer in peaceful protest, inspired by the Indian activist Mahatma Gandhi. His protests used no-violent tactics, even when the protesters themselves were met with violence from the police.

In 1963, Martin gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, It has become one of the most famous speeches in history and focuses on Martin's dream of a society where black people and white people live together in harmony.

In 1964 the Civil Rights Act was passed, outlawing racial segregation and discrimination in the USA. Martin won the Nobel Peace Prize in October 1964. Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in 1968.