

JFK and MLK – TWO GREAT LEADERS

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Recognize the accomplishments of both John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Compare and contrast these two national leaders of the 1960's.
3. Identify points of view of different events
4. Create a timeline of events of the 60's

TEKS: SS 3.10A, 17 C&D, 4.21 B&D, 5.5B, 22C; LA 3.26Aii; 4.24Aii; 5.24A

Materials Needed: children's book on MLK, such as *Martin's Big Words*, internet or print reference materials on John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., copies of Journal page (Attachment 1)

Vocabulary: legacy, integration, civil rights, summit, assassination

Teaching Strategy:

1. Remind students that we celebrate Martin Luther King Day every 3rd Monday in January. Introduce the accomplishments of MLK using a children's book, such as *Martin's Big Words*
2. Ask students if they know who John F. Kennedy was. Remind them that Kennedy was President when Martin Luther King lived. Show pictures and/or children's books of both men.
3. Divide the class into two groups, one to research John F. Kennedy and the other to research Martin Luther King, Jr.
4. Within each group, pairs of students will use print or internet sources to find information about notable events in the life of the person being studied.
5. The King group will find information about:
 - a. Early life
 - b. Life in Ministry
 - c. Integration of Little Rock Central High School
 - d. Assisting Rosa Parks
 - e. The March on Washington
 - f. Bloody Sunday in Selma, AL
 - g. A Famous Quote
 - h. Assassination
6. The Kennedy group will find information about
 - a. Early Life
 - b. Life in Congress
 - c. Peace Corps

- d. Summit with Nikita Khrushchev
 - e. Cuban Missile Crisis
 - f. Civil Rights Movement
 - g. A Famous Quote
 - h. Assassination
7. For each topic, students will write a diary/journal entry from the perspective of King/Kennedy.
 8. Students will create a full page graphic to go with each topic. Display the graphics in the form of a timeline for all the class to see.
 9. Allow each group to present their findings to the other group.

G/T Extension:

Students will rewrite the "I Have a Dream" speech, using their own thoughts about what aspirations they have for America.

Created by Jeanne Wray
LRE Consultant

