

THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Learning Objective(s): The students will

1. Recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a civil rights leader.
2. Understand why our nation celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
3. Create a bulletin board or wall display illustrating their understanding of the words spoken by Martin Luther King, Jr.
4. Express their ideas orally.

TEKS: SS K.1A, 15 A&B, 1.14E, 18 A&B, 2.1A, 19 A&B

Materials: Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, pieces of 12" x 18" drawing paper, crayons, bulletin board caption "We Are All Brothers and Sisters"

Vocabulary: courage, equal rights, freedom, minister, peace, separate, together

Teaching Strategy:

1. To introduce the lesson, show students the cover of Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport. Ask students if they know who the person is on the cover of the book. (If students do not know, tell them that the man is Martin Luther King, Jr.) Optional: Ask students what they know about Martin Luther King, Jr. and record students' responses on chart paper or the board.
2. Read the class the book Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lead students in a discussion of the following points as they are mentioned in the book:
 - When Martin Luther King, Jr. was growing up in the south, African-Americans were not allowed to use the same drinking fountains or eat in the same restaurants as white people. How do you think African-Americans felt about the signs that said "white only"?
 - How would you feel if you were not allowed to be friends with children that have a different color of skin than yours or had to attend a different school just because of the color of your skin?
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that." What did he mean?
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to help change unfair laws and worked for equal rights through peaceful ways rather than

through fighting and violence. What are some of the peaceful things he did?

- Even though many Southerners disliked Martin Luther King, Jr. and even threatened to hurt him, he would not give up. Why do you think he was so determined?
 - Why do you think Americans celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day?
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "I have a dream that one day ...little black boys and black girls will join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." It was his wish that everyone would get along together and treat each other fairly. What can you do to help keep Martin Luther King's dream alive?
3. Optional: Have students share the new things they have learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and add the information to the class chart or list on the board.
 4. Explain to students that the class is going to create a bulletin board or wall display to honor Martin Luther King's birthday, which is a national holiday celebrated every January, on the third Monday of the month. The bulletin board/display will be titled "We Are All Brothers and Sisters."
 5. Give each student a large sheet of 12" x 18" drawing paper. (Students should orient their paper to the portrait direction.) Tell students to draw a full body picture of themselves, from head to toe, with their arms outstretched. They should try to duplicate the clothing that they are wearing. Students should color their picture after it is completed.
 6. The teacher should place the pictures of the students, side by side, so that the figures are holding hands. The title "We Are All Brothers and Sisters" should be mounted at the top of the bulletin board/display.

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students develop a plan for a birthday celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr. The plan should include the date, place, time, sample invitation, description of decorations, menu items, specific activities and/or content of speakers' presentations, etc. Students should be able to defend their selections.