



## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PLACEMATS

**Learning Objectives:** The students will...

1. Identify why Martin Luther King Day is a national holiday.
2. Exhibit their knowledge of the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the civil rights movement.
3. Communicate through verbal, graphic, and written forms.
4. Work together in small, cooperative groups for the purpose of discussion and synthesizing learning.

**TEKS:** 1.1A, 1.2A, 1.17C&D, 2.1A, 2.2A, 2.16E&F

**Materials Needed:** A children's book about Martin Luther King, Jr. (such as *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport or *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by David A. Adler), large pieces of chart paper for the creation of the placemats, markers/crayons/pencils, copies of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Poster handout for each student.

**Vocabulary:** equal rights, holiday, Nobel Peace Prize, prejudice

**Teaching Strategy:**

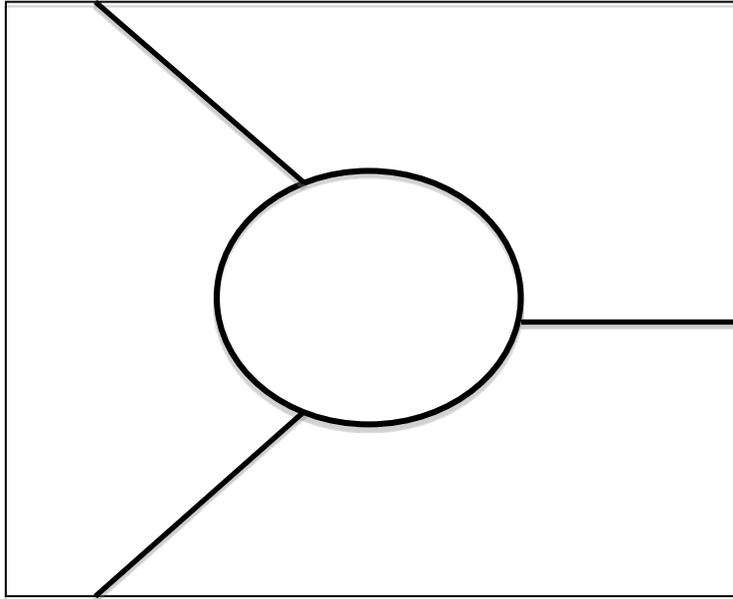
1. NOTE—Preceding the lesson, the teacher should prepare placemats for the small group recording of information/discussion. A Placemat Design Template accompanies this lesson illustrating how to organize three or four person placements. Using a marker, divide large sheets of chart paper into the desired number of sections corresponding with the size of each group.
2. Introduce the lesson by displaying the cover of a book about Martin Luther King, Jr. Ask students if they can identify the person pictured on the cover. Relate to students that on the third Monday of January each year we honor the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. Read the book about Martin Luther King to the class. Clarify vocabulary and discuss necessary passages throughout the story, as needed.
4. Divide students into groups of three or four. (Desks should be arranged so that one student will be on each side of the group placemat.) Give each group a placemat and then explain that each student should have his/her own section of the placemat in front of him/her.
5. Tell students to think quietly about what they learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. from the story. After 30-60 seconds, instruct students to draw pictures, symbols, and/or write words that reflect what they know about MLK and his accomplishments on their section of the placemat.
6. After allowing students adequate time to draw and record their thoughts, instruct members of each group to discuss what they each put in their sections of the placemat. Next have students record common responses/drawings in the center of the group placemat.
7. Lead a class discussion concerning the common points each group recorded and note commonalities on the board.
8. To conclude the lesson, give each student a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day poster attachment. Have students draw a symbol or picture that best represents the most important thing that Martin Luther King, Jr. accomplished. Have students share their posters with the class and then post them on the wall or as a bulletin board display.

**Extension for Gifted/Talented:**

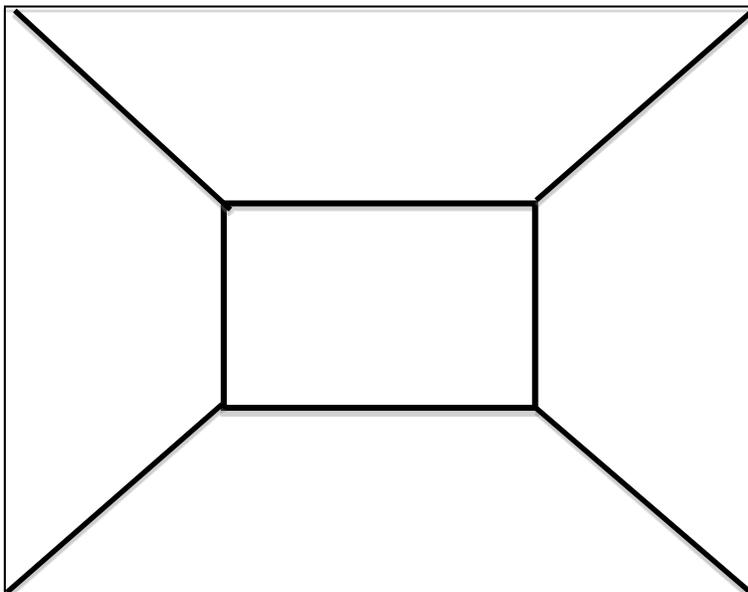
Have students write a 30 second announcement about why we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. If possible, provide the opportunity for the best announcement to be read over the school public address system on MLK Day at the beginning of the school day.

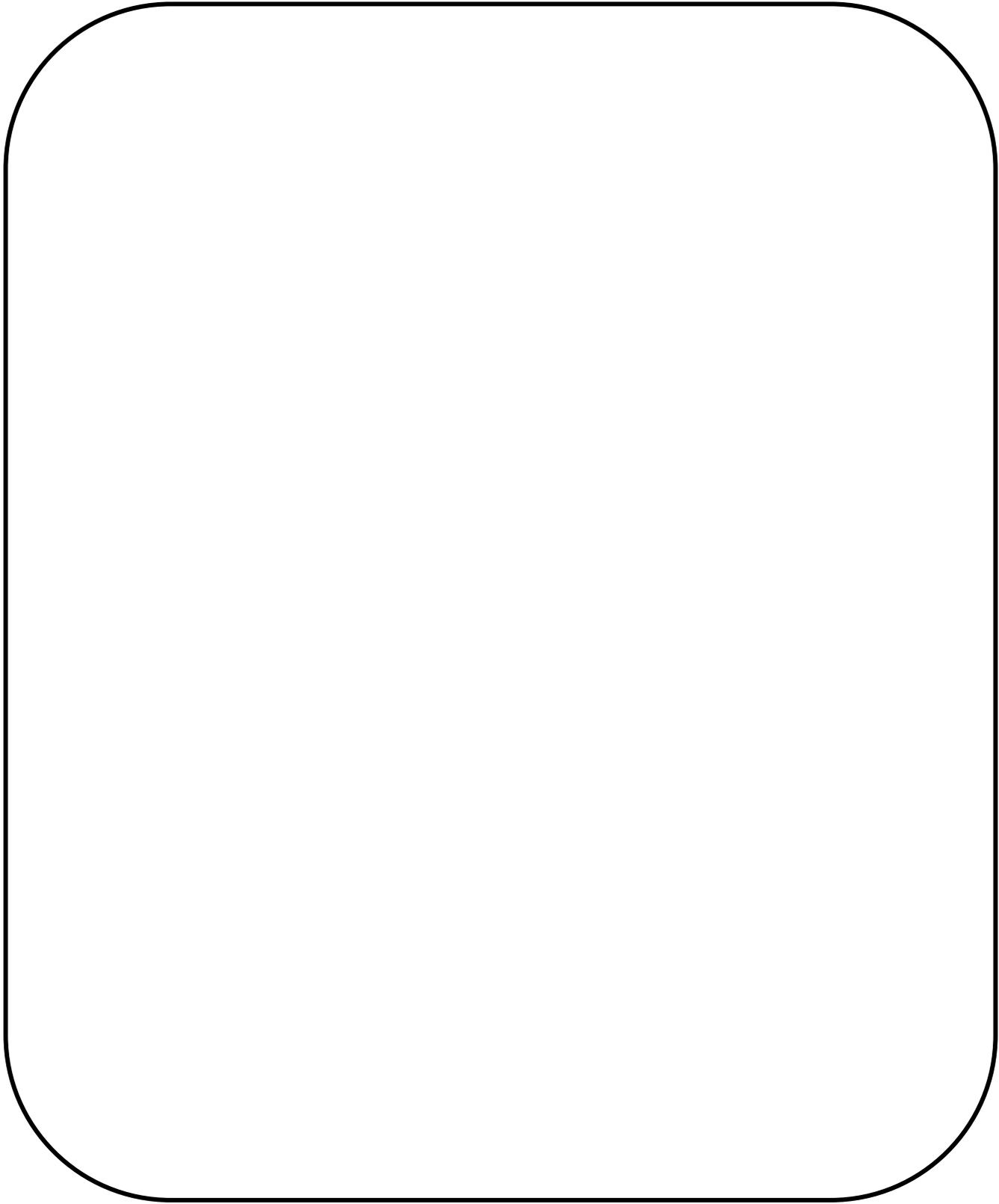
**Placemat Design Templates:**

Placemat for Three



Placemat for Four





# Martin Luther King, Jr. Day