



Civil Rights Heroes: Reflections on MLK Day

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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. emerged as a **PROMINENT** (obvious, noticeable) leader in the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Graduating as the valedictorian of his **SEMINARY** (school, university), he served as a Baptist pastor in **MONTGOMERY**, Alabama, a city deeply entrenched in the discriminatory "separate but equal" Jim Crow laws. Alongside other activists, Dr. King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which spearheaded non-violent protests advocating for civil rights. His iconic "I Have a Dream" speech remains a powerful symbol of the quest for social equity and equality. Dr. King played a **PIVOTAL** (essential, crucial) role in influential events such as the Montgomery bus boycott and authored the impactful "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," responding to critics of his methods. His **HUMANITARIAN** (compassionate, caring) approach urged individuals to reflect on their beliefs and their impact on the broader community, leaving a lasting legacy in the pursuit of justice and equality for all.

SPELL RIGHTS

SPELL APPROACH

SPELL JUSTICE

Who are we discussing in this section? **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR**

In what state did he serve as a pastor? **ALABAMA**

Question Type Key

KNOWN – **SEMI-OPEN** – **PRIOR KNOWLEDGE** – **MATH** – **OPEN** – **VAKT**

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What did Dr. King co-found? SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
What was his speech called? I HAVE A DREAM

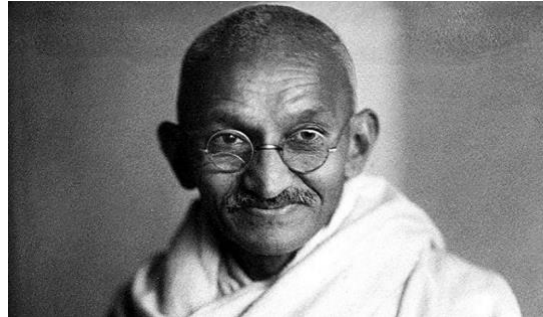
Name a synonym I mentioned for prominent. OBVIOUS, NOTICEABLE

His iconic "I Have a Dream" speech remains a powerful symbol of the quest for social _____ and _____. Name one. EQUITY, EQUALITY

Name another civil rights leader you know of.

What is a civil rights issue that is important to you? Describe why you chose this issue.
Describe what you think "separate but equal" may be referring to.

Describe your impact on your broader community.



MAHATMA GANDHI, often revered as the "father of India," dedicated his life to advocating for non-violence and civil rights for the Indian people in India and South Africa. Holding a law degree from Great Britain, Gandhi utilized his legal expertise to address the PLIGHT (dilemma, difficulty) of Indian immigrants in South Africa. His activism extended to leading peaceful resistance against British rule in India and organizing boycotts against British institutions. Gandhi's impactful journey across India by train was marked by speeches promoting independence and human dignity for all. He fervently CHAMPIONED (defended, supported) equality in everyday matters and advocated for laws that equally addressed the diverse needs of all individuals. Gandhi's unwavering commitment to nonviolent resistance and his advocacy for civil rights left an INDELIBLE (permanent, fixed) mark on the history of India and inspired movements for justice around the world.

SPELL INDIA

SPELL HISTORY

SPELL MOVEMENTS

Who are we discussing in this section? MAHATMA GANDHI

What is Gandhi often revered as? FATHER OF INDIA

His activism extended to leading peaceful _____ against British rule. RESISTANCE

Name one of the things mentioned that Gandhi's speeches promoted.

INDEPENDENCE, HUMAN DIGNITY

Name one of the synonyms mentioned for championed. DEFENDED, SUPPORTED

Name one kind of diversity you know of.

The concept of human dignity may have different meanings for people, based on their life experiences. What does "human dignity" mean to you? How does your experience as a speller play a role in your understanding of this concept?

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT

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NELSON MANDELA, celebrated as one of the FOREMOST (leading, primary) civil rights activists globally, played a pivotal role in leading South Africa out of the era of APARTHEID (segregation on grounds other than race). Serving as the nation's first black president from 1994 to 1999, Mandela, who passed away at the age of 95 in 2013, is often referred to as the father of South Africa. During his presidency, he worked tirelessly to ERADICATE (eliminate, destroy) oppression and fostered the transformation of his country into a society characterized by equality and justice. Mandela's philosophy emphasized personal transformation as a PREREQUISITE (necessity, condition) for societal impact, stressing the importance of humility in leadership. He advocated for forgiveness through changed conduct and character, emphasizing respect and humility as essential tools to bring about meaningful change. Mandela's legacy extends far beyond his presidency, leaving an enduring mark on the global struggle for human rights and justice.

SPELL GLOBAL

SPELL CELEBRATED

SPELL PRESIDENT

Who are we discussing in this section? **NELSON MANDELA**

What country did he lead out of the era of segregation? **SOUTH AFRICA**

He served as the nation's first _____. **BLACK PRESIDENT**

Name one of the synonyms mentioned for eradicate. **ELIMINATE, DESTROY**

He advocated for forgiveness through changed ____ and _____. Name one.

CONDUCT, CHARACTER

Mandela emphasized _____ and _____ as essential tools to bring about meaningful change. Name one. **RESPECT, HUMILITY**

Name one president you know of.

Why do you think respect and humility are essential tools to bring about meaningful change?

How do you use your communication to bring about change?



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ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU, recently departed, was an advocate for racial justice, PALESTINIAN statehood, and LGBTQ+ rights. Much like Martin Luther King Jr., Tutu utilized his role as an ANGLICAN priest to mobilize public opinion against inequality, injustice, and racial inequity, promoting non-violent methods to oppose segregation. Recognized with the NOBEL Peace Prize in 1984, Tutu FERVENTLY (passionately, enthusiastically) lobbied against institutional racism, emphasizing kindness and forgiveness in his sermons. His advocacy for peace TRANSCENDED (exceeded, surpassed) geographical boundaries, reflecting a deep compassion for the oppressed and an unwavering commitment to truth and justice. Tutu, not defining himself as a politician but as a follower of moral principles, leaves behind a legacy of tireless dedication to the pursuit of a more just and equitable world.

SPELL DEPARTED

SPELL OPINION

SPELL METHODS

Who are we discussing in this section? ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

He promoted non-violent methods to oppose _____. SEGREGATION

What award was Tutu recognized with? NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Tutu, not defining himself as a politician but as a follower of _____. MORAL PRINCIPLES

Name one of the things Archbishop Desmond Tutu advocated for. RACIAL JUSTICE, PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD, LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Name one of the synonyms I mentioned for transcended. EXCEEDED, SURPASSED

Name one of the two values he emphasized in his sermons. KINDNESS, FORGIVENESS

In what year did he win the Nobel Peace Prize? 1984

Describe what you are most dedicated to.

As Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated on January 17, it serves as a POIGNANT (moving, touching) reminder for all of us to cultivate an awareness of injustice and become advocates for civil rights. The first step towards fostering this awareness is through ALLYSHIP – the acknowledgment of injustice in our surroundings and the active pursuit of change. By recognizing and understanding the issues at hand, individuals can play a crucial role in advocating for a more just and EQUITABLE (reasonable, unbiased) society, embodying the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. King's teachings continue to inspire a collective responsibility to confront injustice and work towards a world that upholds the principles of equality and justice for all.

Creative Writing:

Make a list of ten things that you can do to make the world a better place.

Martin Luther King Jr. is sharing his dream for what the world should be like. His dream was to have a fair, peaceful world where everyone is equal to one another. What would your dream world be like?

What does it mean to "do the right thing?" Why do you think some people choose to do

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the easy thing as opposed to the right thing?

Sources:

<https://apuedge.com/mlk-day-comparing-dr-king-with-other-civil-rights-leaders/>

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