## Who Was Martin Luther King Jr.?

Each year on the third Monday of January, the Americans celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. (Junior). This year that is on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader and people remember what Martin Luther King Jr. did each year on his birthday.



Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929 into a family of pastors. King came of age in a time where blacks and whites were separated in much of the United States. Blacks were not allowed to go to the same schools as whites, drink from the same water or eat in the same restaurants. Martin Luther King Jr. also wanted to become a pastor. He wasn't happy with the situation that the blacks and whites were separated. He wanted to end the separation and tell people that everyone is equal. He started to fight against this separation. Once he said that all blacks should not go on public buses because the blacks were not allowed to sit on good seats. The blacks didn't use public buses for a year. After this protest the blacks were allowed to sit everywhere on the bus.

Martin Luther King gave many speeches, wrote books and did many protests. For the protests he often had to go to prison. His most famous speech was in 1963 and is called the "I have a Dream" speech. His dream was that one day his children don't have to be separated from white people. Five years later, when he was 39 years old, he was killed.

## Are these statements true or false?

- · Martin Luther King Day is celebrated every year
- · Martin Luther King Jr. was a farmer
- · Martin Luther King Jr. went to school with white children
- · Martin Luther King Jr. had to go to prison
- · Martin Luther King Jr. was didn't have children
- Martin Luther King Jr. died very young

true	false