

V Dr Martin Luther King, Jr



Martin Luther King Jr, was born on 15 January, 1929, in Atlanta,

Georgia, in the South of the United States. His father was an important person in the black community in Atlanta.

Although Martin's life in Atlanta was comfortable, he met racism every day. He could not use certain public toilets because they were for white people only. If he went to the cinema, he had to sit upstairs at the back. He could not go to school with white children. He could not use the same libraries or parks as white people.

When Martin was fifteen years old, he made a speech about the rights of black people in America. He won a prize.

Martin went to college when he was fifteen, three years earlier than most students in the United States. He wanted to help the black community and he thought he should become a doctor or a lawyer. He was ordained a Baptist Minister in 1948.

Martin also liked the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, an Indian man who believed in non-violent protest at all times.

In 1953 Martin married Coretta Scott.

In 1954 they went to live in Montgomery where he became a great preacher. That same year the United States Supreme Court had said that segregation in schools must stop. Black children and white children had to go to the same schools. But by the end of 1955 nothing had changed in Montgomery: black children and white children still went to separate school.

Between 1957-1958 Martin Luther King made 208 speeches, he was the leader of the black Civil Rights Movement. He spoke at meetings all over the country.

On 10 September, 1958, Martin was in a bookshop in Harlem in New York, and a black woman tried to kill him.

One day after a big protest, Martin was arrested and taken to Birmingham Jail.

On 28 August, 1963, the day of the march on Washington DC, Martin gave one of the greatest speech of the Civil Rights Movement in America.

In April 1968 he went to Memphis, Tennessee, for a meeting, but when he went out on the balcony of his hotel room, he was shot. A bullet had exploded in his neck and he died an hour later. He was thirty-nine years old. On his gravestone were the words:

"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last."

Martin Luther King. Longman Famous Lives. Elementary.

José Manuel Pacheco Terriza.

4º ESO A