

Special MLK Day Issue

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Reporter: Justin Gong



Martin Luther King Jr. is born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. He was a leader of the Civil Right Movement in the 1950/60s. Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He also placed eighth out of the 100 most influential figures in American History Posted by "The Atlantic", a respected magazine in America that started in November 1857. Martin Luther King was most famous for his speech "I have a dream," where he expressed his hope that one day everyone will be equal and encouraged his listeners to fight through and struggle together.

The Civil Rights Movement was a "war" fought for justice and equality for African Americans in the United States. Martin Luther King played an essential part in the Civil Right Movement by leading multiple vital events during the Civil Right Movement. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a civil rights protest when African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating. The Birmingham Campaign, a protest in Birmingham that led to a pivot point of the Civil

Rights Movement.

Martin Luther King is also known as one of the eight most persuasive orators of the past century. His outstanding speech talent provided him with extraordinary personal charm and the ability to organize and mobilize social resources. His speeches can not only inspire people to stay strong. But he can also win the support of white people.

Each of his speeches is nicely designed, and it is clear that every one of them is actually an extensive use of rhetorical abilities in various languages. It is able to express the emotion of the speech and push the enthusiasm to its climax.

Martin Luther King believed that true pacifism, as Gandhi said, is not achieved by "not resisting evil, but resisting evil with non-violence." In Martin Luther King's words, "True pacifism is to face evil bravely with the power of love, to believe that it is better to be victimized by violence than to inflict violence on others." This idea led Martin Luther King Jr. to oppose any war. He was convinced that non-violent resistance based on love was the way for black Americans to fight for freedom, and he devoted his life to it.

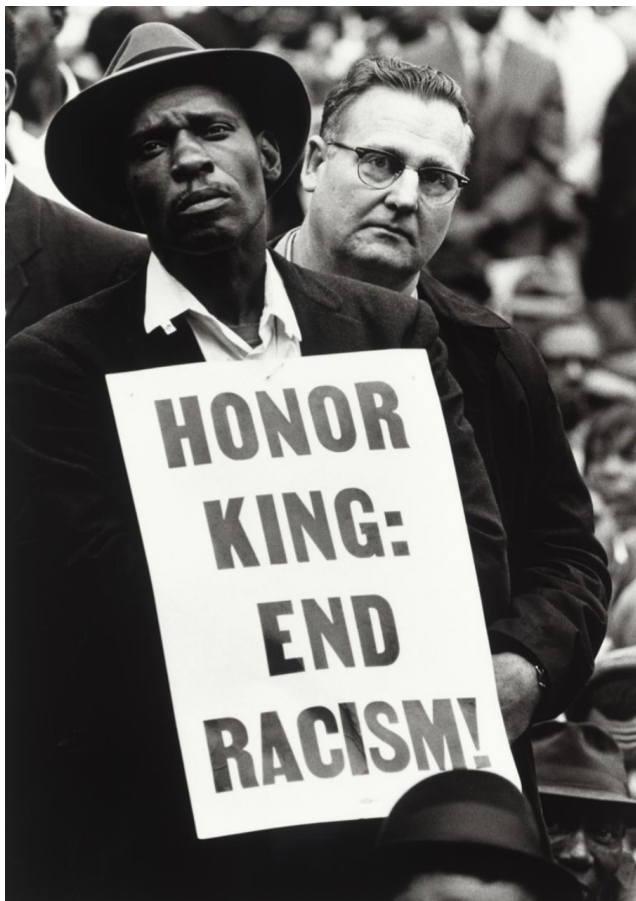
Unfortunately, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 3, 1968, after he and several Southern Christian Leaders Association leaders arrived at the Memphis Airport in Tennessee. After Martin Luther King Jr. gave his last speech, "I've Been To the Mountaintop," on the evening of April 3, he was assassinated by a racist at the age of 39. Now, several years after Martin Luther King Jr. passed away, people celebrate Martin Luther King Day near his birthday, January 15.

HOW DO WE CELEBRATE MLK DAY?

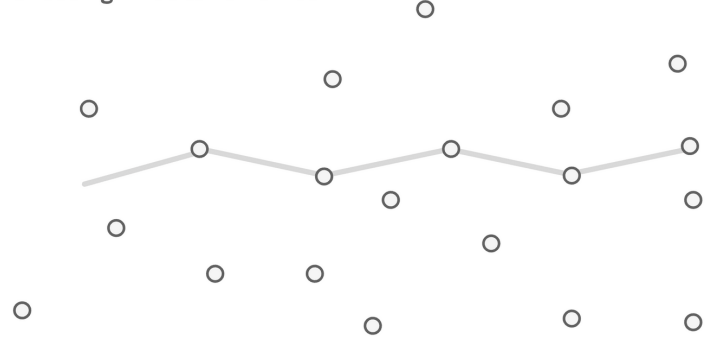
Reporter: Minjun Hwang

Many of us have heard about or know a little about MLK Day but probably do not know how to celebrate MLK day. MLK Day is a day to honor and recognize MLK's achievements in ending racial segregation as a black rights activist. So, how do we celebrate MLK day? The day is usually celebrated, starting with marches and parades led by leaders of black rights activist organizations. Then it is followed by speeches by political leaders of America.

However, there are more straightforward ways to celebrate MLK day, such as at Cardigan. The class could write a birthday card since MLK day was created for MLK's birthday. The back of the card could be illustrated with the theme of "I have a dream." The class could watch a short film or movie that is based on MLK's life and achievements. Lastly, the whole school could go visit an MLK memorial, which is located in Boston.



Choosing what to remember



HOW DID MLK DAY START?

Reporter: Dk Kim

Legislation making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a federal holiday in the United States was passed in 1983, however, the first nationwide observance didn't occur until 1986. It was presented to Congress for legislation as a holiday in 1968, but opponents blocked its passage. We celebrate this day to remember Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister and prominent leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. People are encouraged to use the day to "reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change espoused by MLK."

MLK fought for racial justice and equality. He stood up to make a difference for every race, and his words spoke for every nationality to not face segregation. The holiday celebrates this equality. MLK Day celebrates this movement toward equality. In 1986, MLK day was officially chosen to be on his actual birthday, January 16th (he was born on January 16, 1929). This holiday was first known as "Civil Rights Day" until 1999 when the State Legislature voted to change the name of the holiday to Martin Luther King Day.



HAS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BEEN "WHITEWASHED"?

Reporter: Mr. MacDonald

"I have a Dream," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) said into the microphone in late August 1963, "that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." This is from Dr. King's—and perhaps America's—most famous speech. But it is only a fraction of the 16-minute speech that King delivered that day, a speech that included questions of economic inequality and critiques of the government. These parts of the speech are not well remembered. Why?

Many contemporary leaders in the fight against racial inequality have identified a reason—Whitewashing. Whitewashing is an old term that originally referred to when a coat of white paint was applied to cover up dirt or blemishes on surfaces like walls or fences. The term has come to mean something else in contemporary America. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as, "to alter (something) in a way that favors, features, or caters to white people." Maybe we only know about King's dream and not his critiques because that "favors, features, or caters" to white people. Headlines across the country point to this type of "alteration". The Dallas Weekly reads, "The Legacy of MLK: How Its Been Whitewashed", while an article from North Carolina for Community and Justice reads, "Celebrating Dr. King's (Non-Whitewashed) Legacy." More mainstream are also questioning this—just last year Time magazine had an article titled, "The Whitewashing—And Resurrection—of Dr. King's Legacy."

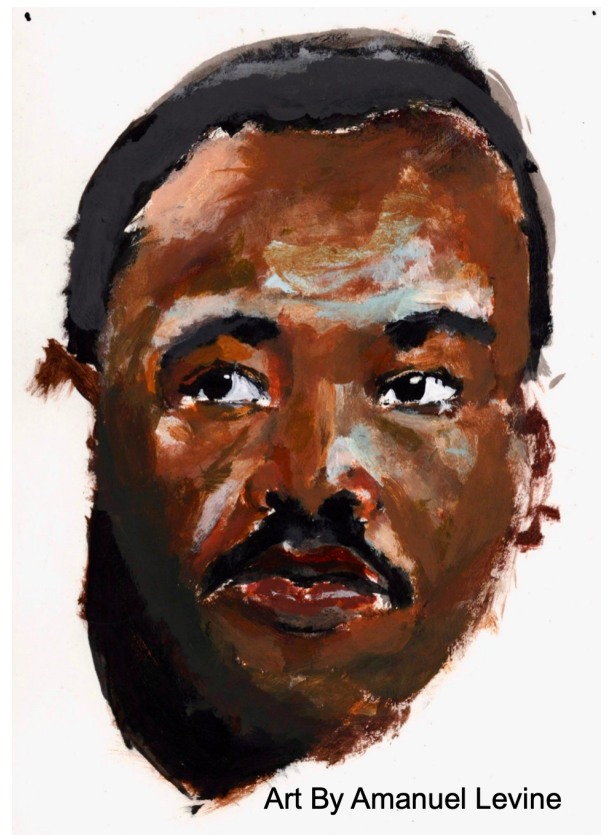
We may ask, "Why Dr. King's legacy is being or has been, whitewashed?" Perhaps it comes from the creation of the holiday itself, which was federally adopted in 1983 but not adopted by all the states until 2000 (New Hampshire was

he last state).

That slow process indicates a lot of pushback. Maybe in order to get the holiday recognized in all 50 states what we remember and celebrate about Dr. King needed to be acceptable to white people, especially in predominantly white states like New Hampshire. Perhaps it is because, as Candice Benbow writes in Essence magazine, MLK had, "radical, socialist, left leaning" politics—what many in the US would consider "Un-American." Or, maybe Dr. King is not whitewashed. Maybe we are just choosing to celebrate the parts of Dr. King's legacy that we strive to be—colorblind, fair, and just.

I encourage you to explore the question posed in the headline, find some articles to read online, ask others what they think, or just contemplate the question to yourself. Whatever your conclusion on the issue, I leave you with this quote from a speech Dr. King made in 1967, which sounds far from his dream:

However difficult it is to hear, however shocking it is to hear, we've got to face the fact that America is a racist country.



Art By Amanuel Levine

TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions from editors-in-chief: Jake Lim and Jason Ko

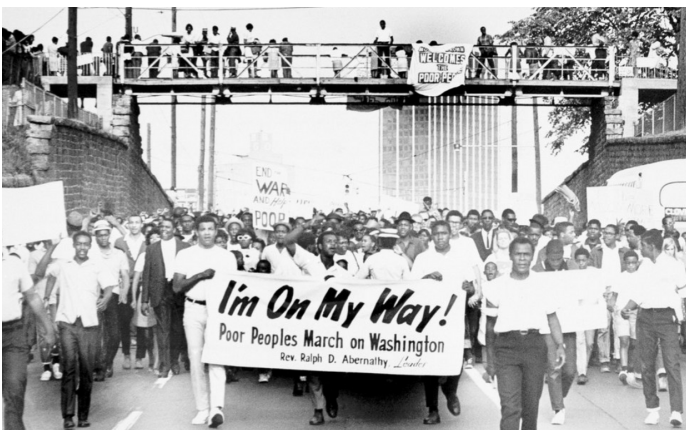
The dining table is a great place to have a conversation. But sometimes it can be difficult to get the conversation started. If that's the case, here are some questions to help get your table started.

Table Discussion Questions:

- What thoughts did you have after reading Martin Luther King Jr's autobiography? Can you relate to any of them?
- Discrimination has become a big concept in today's society. What form of discrimination can be found across the world? What can you do about it?
- How does discrimination play a role in everyday life at Cardigan? Do you think it exists at Cardigan?
- Martin Luther King Jr. tried to achieve non-violent protest to abolish discrimination. Have you ever experienced discrimination from race or originality? How did you feel about it?



Above: A march to make MLK Day a national holiday, 1968.



Above: Poor People's Campaign March, 1968.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MR. GARTNER

Mr. Gartner | Ph. D. in Knowledge

1. The magic carpet flies at approximately 125,000mph during the "A Whole New World" montage.
2. Dogs are people too.
3. Bumper stickers reduce the value of your car.
4. The heaviest part of a plane is the fuel.
5. Speed limits were created to conserve fuel.
6. A horse is a bike that pedals itself.
7. Ketchup contains no real tomato.
8. Mosquitoes are the world's deadliest animal.
9. There were no cats in America before 1900.
10. Hummingbirds have excellent memories.