

# MARTIN LUTHER KING

A man who changed the lives of black and white Americans

Reverend Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929. He was the first black pastor in Montgomery, Alabama in the south of the USA. In the southern states many white people were hostile to blacks. Racial discrimination was very common. Black people were not allowed to enter many restaurants, hotels, schools, libraries and parks. There were separate seats for whites and blacks on buses and trains.

King was the leader of the black non-violent- movement for equality, he followed the ideas of the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi and he believed in non-violent civil disobedience. Sit-ins, speeches and peaceful marches were the methods of his struggle. In 1955 he organized a protest against segregation on buses in Montgomery.

He was arrested many times but he became very famous and gave strength to the movement for black integration. In the summer of 1963 King led a huge peaceful march for Civil Rights to Washington, where he made his famous speech “**I have a dream**”. In 1964 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. But on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1968 he was assassinated on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1983, King’s birthday was declared a national holiday.

## **Answer these questions**

1. When and where was M.L. King born?
2. What did he fight for?
3. Whose ideas did he follow?
4. Did King want to abolish discrimination using violence?
5. What were the methods of his struggle?
6. What did he organize in 1955?
7. What happened in 1963?
8. When did he receive the Nobel Peace Prize?
9. When and how did he die?

