

Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

4th Grade Lesson Plans-Alabama History (50 minutes)

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Standards

- Alabama State Social Studies Standard: Recognizing Alabamians who have made significant contributions to society in Alabama
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify five contributions that Martin Luther King, Jr. made to society.

Evaluation of Learning Objectives

- Students will work in pairs to write five facts that Dr. King made to society and present it to the class on a poster board.

Engagement

- The teacher will begin the lesson by watching a clip from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" from the following website:
<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=92JB21NU>
- The teacher will then read the book Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport to the class. At the end of the

story, the teacher will lead the class in a discussion (see discussion guide below) on what information the children obtained about Dr. King after listening to the book presentation.

Learning Design

I. Teaching

The teacher will begin the class by asking the class who they believe made this famous speech. She will ask the students the following questions to engage them in the lesson and determine their prior knowledge.

“How did you feel while watching the video?” “Do you believe Dr. King’s dream is alive today?” “What is discrimination?”

The teacher will then read the book, Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport while emphasizing the important aspects to the class. After reading the book to the class, the teacher will then discuss the important contributions that Martin Luther King Jr. made to society:

- Dr. Martin Luther King was a key leader in the Civil Right’s Movement in the 1950’s and 1960’s.
- In 1957 King forms the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and achieve civil rights
- On December 10, 1964 Martin Luther King Jr. won the Noble Peace Prize.
- In 1963, MLK led 125,000 people on a Freedom Walk in Detroit. The March on Washington held August 28 is the largest civil rights demonstration in history with nearly 250,000 people in attendance. At the march, King makes his famous *I Have a Dream* speech.
- March 17 to 25, 1965, King Jr., along with other protesters, marched from Selma to Montgomery as they voiced their right to vote.
- On March 28, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, he led striking sanitation workers on a march that tragically ended in violence.
- On April 3, 1968 he led another march in a rally at Mason Temple.

After the reading, the students will meet with their assigned partner and discuss contributions that Martin Luther King, Jr. made to society and place five specific contributions on a poster board to share with the class.

II. Opportunity for Practice

Students will work together in pairs to discuss and then complete a poster board listing five contributions that Martin Luther King, Jr. made to society.

III. Assessment

Students will be assessed on their poster board assignment that they completed in class. A brief checklist (see end of lesson plan) will be used to determine if the lesson objectives were met in the poster presentation.

IV. Closure

At the end of the lesson the teacher will hand out a piece of construction paper to each student. She will ask them to reflect on Dr. King's speech that they watched at the beginning of class and write one sentence about a dream that they have for our nation. Once the student's work has been taken up, the teacher will make a Wall of Dreams for the class and place each student's work outside the classroom.

Contents and Resources

- Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport
- Video clip from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" from the following website: <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=92JB21NU>
- Construction Paper
- Poster Board

Poster Assignment Checklist

1. The information is presented in a clear and concise manner	
2. All information is accurate and relates to topics discussed in class	
3. The poster includes five or more contributions that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made to society	