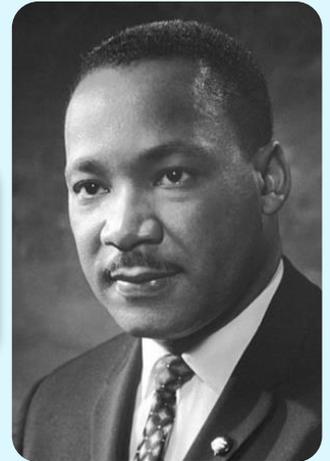


Oracy Tasks Activities

Linked to Civil Rights Movement w/c 8<sup>th</sup> June: 'I Have a Dream'

During this week in 1968 American Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King Jr gave his final speech. 52 years later, Civil Rights have exploded again, especially in America. People are using the power of their voices to communicate how they feel. How would you use your voice to communicate effectively how you feel?



**Facts about Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK)**

**Martin Luther King Jr.** (born **Michael King Jr.**; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the [Civil Rights Movement](#) from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, inspired by his beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

King led the 1955 [Montgomery bus boycott](#) and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he then led an unsuccessful [1962 struggle against segregation](#) in Albany, Georgia, and helped organize the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. He helped organize the 1963 [March on Washington](#), where he delivered his famous "[I Have a Dream](#)" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.



"I Have a Dream" is a public speech that MLK delivered during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States. Delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the speech was a defining moment of the civil rights movement and among the most iconic speeches in American history.

Among the most quoted lines of the speech are "I have a dream 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."

Watch this famous speech here:



**Interesting Fact:** The focus on "I have a dream" comes through the speech's delivery. Toward the end of its delivery, noted African American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson shouted to King from the crowd, "Tell them about the dream, Martin." King departed from his prepared remarks and started "preaching" improvisationally, punctuating his points with "I have a dream."



**Task 1: "One of the most iconic speeches in history"**



Watch MLK's famous 'I have a dream' speech. Use the skills sheet from the Debate Higher launch to identify what makes this speech so iconic and influential? Can you identify 3 main points which made it so powerful and memorable?

**Interesting Fact:** MLK was the first African American to win Time Magazine's Person of the Year Award and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

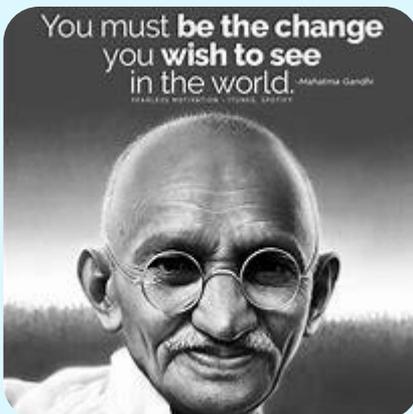
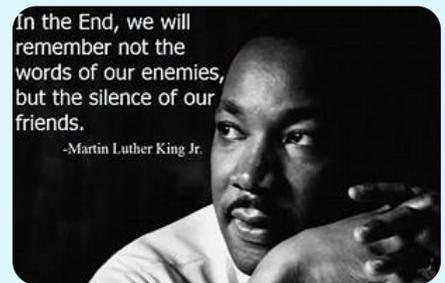


**What are Civil Rights?**

Civil Rights are the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

**Civil Rights – When Speeches Changed the World**

There have been many famous civil rights activists and leaders whose words inspired actions which changed the world.



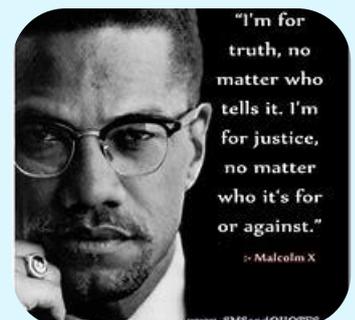
*Martin Luther King Jr.* powerfully advocated for racial equality in America.

*Emeline Pankhurst* fought fiercely for the rights of women in the UK and led a movement which saw women get the vote.

*Mahatma Gandhi* led an independence movement which eventually led to India gaining independent rule from Britain.

*Malcolm X* became a civil rights activist whilst he was in prison and after he converted to Islam. At first, he said that racial equality had to be achieved by any means necessary but by the end of his life and after a visit to Mecca, he advocated peaceful protest and integration. "The true Islam has shown me that a blanket indictment of all white people is as wrong as when whites make blanket indictments against blacks".

*Nelson Mandela* was a brave activist against apartheid (when people of colour and white people were forced to live and work separately) in South Africa and a global human rights activist, after serving 27 years in prison for his activism and a global outcry for justice, he was released and eventually was elected president of his country.

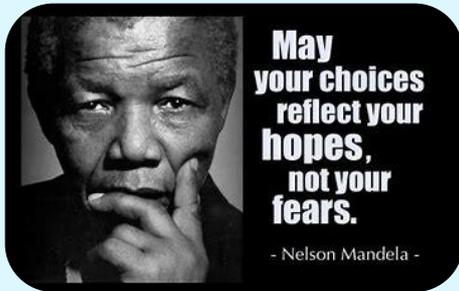


**Task 2: Powerful Words**

Look up the famous quotes of some of the civil rights activists here (*click on pics for links to help*) or from others. Discuss what makes their words powerful? Why do you think their words made people want to follow them and create change? Has anyone inspired you?

**Civil Rights Today**

Issues such as freedom, police brutality, racial equality, gender equality and justice are debated every day on social media and in the press around the world. Why? Weren't these battles won years ago? Perhaps not. Many civil rights issues are as relevant today as they were decades ago.



**In the USA the case of George Floyd has brought civil rights issues back into the spotlight:**

George Floyd died whilst being arrested. Members of the public filmed police kneeling on his neck and chest for more than 8 minutes and Mr Floyd said that he couldn't breathe. When no action was immediately taken against the officers who caused his death, the public became concerned that their civil rights were being abused and protests and demonstrations broke out all across America and the world, including in London. As you can see from the article above, civil rights leaders have become concerned that the president is making things worse rather than calming tensions.

In many cities police officers and public officials joined the protests.

"It should not be a question of escalating military arms on U.S. citizens," he said. "It should be a conversation about enforcing the laws of the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Constitution."

Former Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton said he was arrested with third-degree murder Floyd.



**Task 3: Using My Voice**

Think about what civil rights issues today concern you. Using what you have learned about powerful speeches, prepare a speech of yourself talking about the civil rights that you care about. What would you like to say to the leaders of your country or the world? Can you make your words powerful?

Your speech should be longer than one minute and no more than two minutes and if you'd like - share it with your class or you could film it - we'd love to see it (*please ask your teachers/parents/carers for permission*). Email us at [j.marcham@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:j.marcham@kingston.ac.uk) or [Lucia.byrne@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:Lucia.byrne@kingston.ac.uk)

