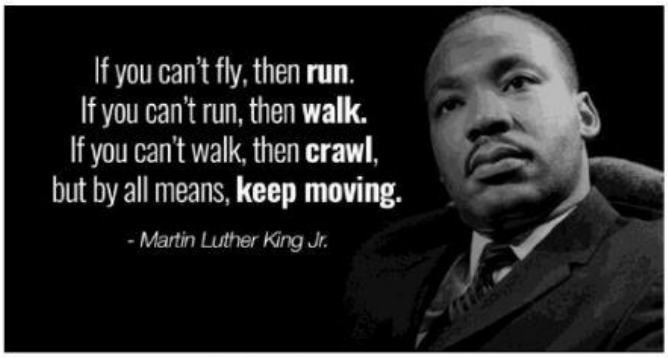
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. His father was a minister in the Baptist church, and his mother was a school teacher. King was very smart, and he graduated from college at 19. He became a Baptist minister, got married, and had four children.

Black and white people were separated in the U.S. when Martin Luther King, Jr. was young. This is called segregation. Segregation means that white people and black people are separated in everyday life. In King's time, white people and black people could not eat in the same restaurants, go to the same schools, or sit in the same places on the bus.

King did not believe in segregation, and he had a dream that black and white people could be equal. He led protests and talked to people about freedom for all people. Some people did not like King's ideas, though. King was put in jail many times and he was shot and killed in 1968. He was 39 years old. Many people in the U.S. were sad about King's death because King was a man of peace.

In 1986, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day became a U.S. federal holiday. The day celebrates King's birthday, which is Jan. 15. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated on the third Monday each year. People celebrate King's life by volunteering their time to help others. MLK Day is now called a day of service, a day to serve others.

Comprehension: Read the story about MLK. Choose the correct answer.

1. What is a minister?
   - a. a church leader
   - b. a school teacher
   - c. a doctor

2. What is segregation?
   - a. the name of a restaurant
   - b. when people are separated by color
   - c. when people sit on buses

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3. What was King's dream?
   a. that people would like his ideas
   b. that he was a man of peace
   c. that blacks and whites could be equal

4. Why was King killed?
   a. because some people didn't like his ideas
   b. because he was put in jail
   c. because he was a man of peace

5. What happened in 1986?
   a. King had his birthday on Jan. 15.
   b. MLK Day became a federal holiday.
   c. King was killed.

6. When is MLK Day celebrated?
   a. on Jan. 15
   b. on a day of service
   c. on the third Monday each year

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