

I have a dream

The third Monday of January each year is a **national holiday** in the USA. It is called Martin Luther King Day.

Martin Luther King was born in 1929 in Georgia in the south of the USA. His father was a priest, and Martin studied at college and also got a job as a priest in Alabama.

At that time, black and white people in the USA were not **equal**. For example, in Alabama, a black person had to stand up on a bus if a white person wanted to sit down. One day, a brave black woman called Rosa Parks refused to do this. Parks and King decided to work together to change the law. In the end they won, and in 1956 Alabama changed the law.

King continued to fight for the rights of black Americans. He made some famous speeches, won the Nobel Peace Prize in

'I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a **nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.'**

1964, and was a **hero** for millions of Americans. But some white people hated him. On 3rd April 1968, he made a speech to a big crowd in Memphis, Tennessee. He talked about his **enemies** and his own death. The next day, James Earl Ray shot Martin Luther King.

King had four children: two boys and two girls. They all decided to continue his work and to fight for the rights of black Americans.

