Reading Comprehension/ Biography

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Georgia in 1929. He was a good student, and went to college to become a preacher. He went on to become a great speaker and a famous American leader.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the main leaders of the civil rights movement. “Civil rights” are rights that should belong to all of the citizens of the country. The civil rights movement in the 1960s focused mainly on equal rights for African-Americans. Dr. King worked to make things equal for people regardless of their *race*, or color of their skin.

Dr. King was a minister. He made many speeches and he gave sermons in his church about what was and was not fair. His speeches helped many people to understand these issues.

Dr. King believed that it was important to fight for what was right without using violence. The *nonviolent protest*s that Dr. King organized and in which he participated, including marches and *sit-ins* (where people would sit in an area where something bad had happened, and they wouldn’t do anything, but they wouldn’t leave), persuaded many Americans that the civil rights movement was right.

Although Dr. King was a powerful leader and had many followers, not everybody liked him. Some people even hated him or thought he was dangerous. He was *assassinated*, or murdered, in Tennessee in 1968. He is buried at the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Martin Luther King is remembered for his famous speeches, for his strong principles, and for his tireless work for equality and peace. He is honored in the United States every year in January. A national holiday, called Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

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Reading Comprehension/ Biography

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.*

1. Where was Dr. King born?
   a. in Africa
   b. in Tennessee
   c. in Georgia
   d. The article doesn't say.

2. What was Dr. King's main job?
   a. He was a preacher.
   b. He was a good student.
   c. He was a follower.
   d. He was an artist.

3. What was the civil rights movement's main focus?
   a. equal rights for women
   b. equal rights for African-Americans
   c. equal rights for children
   d. equal rights for animals

4. Dr. King wanted equality for…
   a. all people, no matter what their race
   b. everybody who was in the race
   c. anybody who had won a race
   d. all politicians in the presidential race

5. Which of the following IS NOT a nonviolent protest?
   a. refusing to work and standing still instead
   b. throwing rocks
   c. marching
   d. giving speeches

6. When is Dr. King honored in the United States?
   a. On the anniversary of his birth
   b. On the anniversary of his death
   c. On the third Monday in January
   d. On the second Monday in February

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Name _____ Date _____

Write complete sentences to answer the questions below.

1. Imagine life in a world where there is no discrimination. Describe.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Tell how the idea of non-violence reminds you of an experience you have had (yourself or with your family or friends).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. After reading the story what do you think is meant by *persuade*?

_____

_____

_____

4. What did you learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. that you did not know? How will you use that new information?

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

Answers to Martin Luther King Jr.

Multiple-choice

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. c

Short-answer

1. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
2. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. *Persuade* = convince
4. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)

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