



# The Civil Rights Movement



During the 1950s and 1960s, the civil rights movement worked to end racial discrimination against Blacks in the United States.

It worked for equal rights for all Americans.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was the most famous leader of the civil rights movement.

He fought for civil rights.

He worked for equality for all Americans.

He led protests against discrimination in many states.

In 1963 he led hundreds of thousands of people in a demonstration to support new civil rights laws.

It was called the March on Washington.

In 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed.

The civil rights movement and the nation lost a great leader.

The United States remembers Martin Luther King, Jr., in a national holiday on the third Monday in January every year.

## Martin Luther King, Jr.\*



During the March on Washington in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., gave a very powerful and beautiful speech at the Lincoln Memorial. It is called his “I Have a Dream” speech. These are the most famous parts of what he said that day.

I . . . have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal.”

This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning “My Country ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring.” And if America is to be a great nation this must become true.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the Old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!”

\* For enrichment and speaking practice. Not required for the citizenship test.

