

Name _____

Martin Luther King Jr.

Learn about Martin Luther King Jr.

Read the paragraph below and then answer the questions that follow.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. Back then, black people didn't have the rights that they have today. He first experienced racial discrimination when he wasn't allowed to play with the white kids in his neighborhood. Another time, he and his father were told to go to the rear of the store to try on shoes. Martin did very well in school. One of his teachers, Miss Lemon, taught him to be independent and to take pride in his heritage. She taught him that if he saw an injustice, he should resist peacefully and with dignity. He entered college when he was just fifteen and graduated at nineteen. He earned his Ph.D at Boston University, then became minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Alabama. He became very active in working for civil rights for all people. He led a bus boycott in 1955. In 1963, he led a march with over 200,000 people in Washington, D.C. where he delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech. Dr. King was arrested 30 times while peacefully demonstrating against injustice. In 1964, he earned the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. He was just 39 years old.

Questions:

What was Dr. King's first experience with racism?

Who taught Dr. King to take pride in his heritage and to resist injustice peacefully?

How old was Dr. King when he entered college?

Where did Dr. King deliver his "I have a dream" speech?

How old was Dr. King when he was assassinated?
