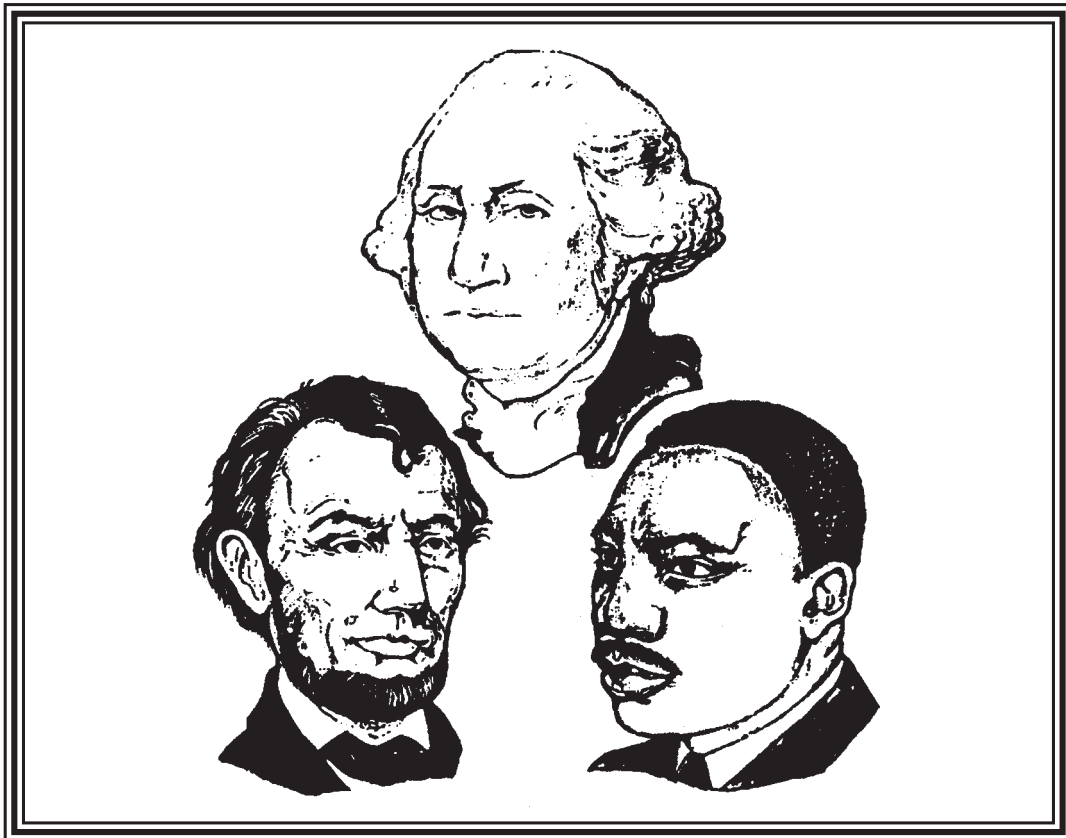


THEMATIC UNIT

Presidents' Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Written by Mary Ellen Sterling

Illustrated by Keith Vasconcelles



Teacher Created Resources, Inc.

6421 Industry Way
Westminster, CA 92683
www.teachercreated.com

ISBN: 978-1-55734-262-1

©1992 *Teacher Created Resources, Inc.*
Reprinted, 2009

Made in U.S.A.



The classroom teacher may reproduce copies of materials in this book for classroom use only. The reproduction of any part for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted, stored, or recorded in any form without written permission from the publisher.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Notes About the Holidays	5
<i>My First Martin Luther King Book</i> by Dee Lillegard (Childrens Press, 1987)	6
<i>(Available in Canada from Riverwood Publishers and in Australia from Franklin Watts)</i>	
Summary—Sample Plan—Overview of Activities—Martin Luther King Facts— Georgia—Page by Page—I Have a Dream—Creative Writing Ideas—Martin Luther King, Jr. Puzzle—Critical Thinking Skills—A Peaceful Protest—To Discuss and Do— Martin Luther King, Jr. Words	
<i>A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln</i> by David A. Adler (Holiday House, 1989)	19
<i>(Available in Canada from Thomas Allen and Son; U.K. and Australia from Baker and Taylor, Int.)</i>	
Summary—Sample Plan—Overview of Activities—Build a Log Cabin—To Talk About— Word Game—Abe Lincoln’s Groceries—Inside Lincoln’s Stovepipe—Who’s the President?— Your Own Book—Lincoln’s Homes—Lincoln Word Bank	
<i>A Picture Book of George Washington</i> by David A. Adler (Holiday House, 1989) ...	32
<i>(Available in Canada from Thomas Allen & Son; U.K. and Australia from Baker & Taylor, Int.)</i>	
Summary—Sample Plan—Overview of Activities—Picture This!—Creative Writing Projects—Number Words Puzzle—A “Washington” Map—Fun with Math—Blank Calendar—This and That—The First Flag—Honoring Our Flag—Washington Word Bank	
Across the Curriculum	45
Language Arts:	Story Frames—Washington or Lincoln?—An Author’s Life
Math:	On the Money—Money Problems—Star Pencil Poke— Flag Math
Science:	Patriotic Flowers—Science Report—Experiment Report
Social Studies:	Celebrate America Little Book—Famous Buildings and Monuments—A Three-Way Comparison—Which Is First?— The Life and Times Of...—Life and Times Activities
Art/Music:	Presidential Projects—Freedom Songs
Life Skills/Cooking:	Patriotic Desserts
Culminating Activity	66
Patriotic Picnic—George Washington Scramble—Flag Toss	
Unit Management	71
Three Great Leaders Bulletin Board—Stationery	
Answer Key	79
Bibliography	80

My First Martin Luther King Book

by Dee Lillegard

In this book, the life story of Martin Luther King is presented in a unique poetry format. Each poem focuses on a different event in the life of Dr. King and is accompanied by a vivid illustration. The language employed by the author is simple and her messages are allowed to come through clearly. As the students read and learn about Martin Luther King's life, they will see that in many ways he was just like them. He was also an extraordinary man with a vision and a plan that lives on today.

The outline below is a suggested plan for using the various activities that are presented in this unit. You may adapt these ideas to fit your own classroom situation.

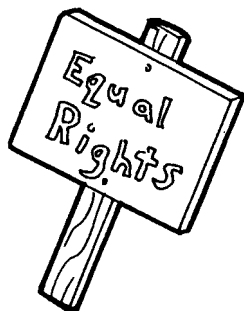
Sample Plan

Lesson I

- Background Information: Learn about Georgia (page 10)
- Brainstorm the meaning of prejudice (#2, top of page 7).
- Have students write what they know about Dr. King (#3, top of page 7).
- Read *My First Martin Luther King Book*.

Lesson II

- Begin Page by Page activities. Choose one or more of the activities to complete (page 11).
- Tell about your dream for peace. Draw a picture (see page 12).
- Write initial poems (see page 13).
- Learn more about the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. (see page 17).



Lesson III

- Continue Page by Page activities (page 11).
- Describe colors (page 13).
- Critical Thinking Character traits on page 15
- Art: Commemorative plate (page 17)

Lesson IV

- Continue Page by Page activities (page 11).
- Lists of favorite words (page 13)
- Skip-counting activity (page 16)
- Inferences. Identifying facts and non-facts (page 15)

Lesson V

- Role play story events (page 17).
- Read other books with the theme of prejudice (#4, page 8).
- Big Book Idea (#5, page 8)

Overview of Activities

SETTING THE STAGE

1. Learn the words and music of the Civil Rights song, “We Shall Overcome.” One source for the words and music is *If You Lived at the Time of Martin Luther King* by Ellen Levine (Scholastic, 1990). It can also be found, along with the text of the “I Have a Dream” speech, in the appendices of *Martin Luther King: The Peaceful Warrior* by Ed Clayton (Simon & Schuster, 1968). Listen to a recording of the song, if possible. Discuss the meaning of the lyrics.
2. With the students, brainstorm the meaning of prejudice. Talk about instances in which they have experienced prejudice because of age, race, or sex.
3. Tell students that they will be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ask them what they know about this famous leader. Have them record their responses (see sample worksheet on page 9). Save the papers for later use. At the end of the unit, return the papers and let students write what they have learned.
4. Dr. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia. The area around his birthplace, church, and tomb is called The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Learn about Martin Luther King’s home state of Georgia. Have the students complete the activity sheet on page 10. You may want the children to write some more Georgia facts on the back of that page.
5. Begin reading aloud *My First Martin Luther King Book*. Some suggested ways to present the pages of his text are outlined at the bottom of Page by Page (page 11).



ENJOYING THE BOOK

1. Continue to use the suggested activities from page 11 as the different poems are read. Students may be paired or grouped to work together on some projects. You may want them to work individually on other activities.

Soul Food	Not Soul Food

2. Creative Writing. On page 13, there are five different activities from which to choose. Students can write poems, descriptive phrases, or new verses for “We Shall Overcome.” They may also write about their favorite words or construct a chart of soul foods and non-soul foods. Choose those projects best suited for the skill levels of your students.

3. Continue to learn about Martin Luther King. Have the students fill in the blanks and the word puzzle on page 14.

Overview of Activities *(cont.)*

ENJOYING THE BOOK *(cont.)*

4. Develop critical thinking skills. Two possible methods are outlined on page 15. In the first activity, students are asked to identify characteristics of Martin Luther King. Then they must cite evidence(s) of this characteristic through specific examples within the text. Students may be asked to complete a sentence frame (see below) for this activity.

Martin Luther King was _____
I know this because _____

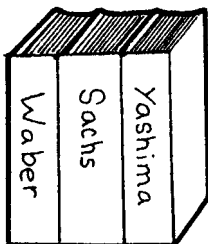
5. Help students learn to locate supporting material for factual statements. Note that there may be disagreements about what is inferred. It is the process which is most important, rather than having the right or wrong answer. (See page 15.)

EXTENDING THE BOOK

1. Sample some fresh peaches. Ask the produce person at the supermarket if they are Georgia peaches. Prepare peach pie or peach cobbler as a class project, or serve peaches with ice cream.



2. Learn about the peaceful protest of 1963 in which a quarter of a million people marched on Washington, D.C. to demand equal rights for blacks. Students can use their skip-counting skills to help figure out the name of this historic event. (See A Peaceful Protest, page 16.)
3. To Discuss and Do, the nine activities on page 17 are suggested follow-ups to your studies about Martin Luther King. You may want to read correlating stories to the class, stage a boycott, role play, or make a commemorative plate. Choose those activities that are best-suited to your teaching style and the skill level of the students.



4. Read other books about prejudice. Appropriate titles include *But Names Will Never Hurt Me* by Bernard Waber (Houghton Mifflin, 1976); *Crow Boy* by Taro Yashima (Viking Press, 1955); *Tico and the Golden Wings* by Leo Lionni (Peter Smith, 1993).

5. Big Book Idea. Trace around each student's body onto butcher paper. Direct the children to cut out the forms and draw their own portraits, clothes, and other features. Tell them to write their dreams for peace on the body. Join all the paper bodies by the hand and line the classroom walls with them.

Martin Luther King Facts

1. Write or draw some things you know about Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. Write or draw some things you have learned about Martin Luther King, Jr.

One hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., took to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and shared his vision of an America lifted from the "quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." His extraordinary message that momentous day in August of 1963 stirred to action Americans of every race and creed, and it continues to reverberate in the hearts and minds of patriotic citizens across our great land. Today, as we pause to mark the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we recommit ourselves to the advancement of equality and justice for all Americans, and to the full realization of his worthy dream. Day is an American holiday honoring one of the most influential and iconic leaders of the civil rights movement. It is celebrated each year on the third Monday of January, near his birthday of January 15th. History. King was born in 1929. President Ronald Regan, in his proclamation speech, defended King's worthiness of the honor: "This year marks the first observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a national holiday. It is a time for rejoicing and reflecting. We rejoice because, in his short life, Dr. King, by his preaching, his example, and his leadership, helped to move us closer to the ideals on which America was founded. . . . He challenged us to make real the promise of America as a land of freedom, equality, opportunity, and brotherhood." Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Movement of the United States of America. Native Americans. The Catholic Church has Holy Days and Saints' feast days throughout the year, the two big ones in order, Easter and Christmas. Congress likewise has established every day with an event, even devoting the entire month of February as Black History Month. To create room for the controversial MLK Day, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, both National Holidays, were combined as Presidents' Day. Given the leadership capabilities of our latter day Presidents, maybe it is time to eliminate this celebration. Or possibly combine it with April Fools' Day. 79 views · View 1 Upvoter · Answer requested by Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. He was a Baptist minister and leader of the civil rights movement, championing justice and equality from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. As he said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The third Monday in January is Martin Luther King Jr. Day (often abbreviated to "MLK Day"). It has been a federal holiday since 1986. This means that it is an observed holiday for federal employees, as well as for many schools and businesses. This also means that the holiday does not always fall on Martin Luther King Jr.'s true birth date, January 15. This year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed on Monday, January 20, 2020. Year. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. 2020.