

Selma

Activity 1: Watch the trailer of the film *Selma*.

What is this film about? Write down three words which crossed your mind while watching the trailer.

Activity 2: Reading

2A: Read the biography of Martin Luther King Jr. and match the titles to the paragraphs.

	Birmingham campaign
	Death
	'I have a dream'
	Move to Chicago
	National awareness

2B: Read the text again. Make a timeline of Martin Luther King's life and write down the most important events in his life.

Author: BBC

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/martin_luther_king.shtml

Vocabulary:

minister	
to ordain	
civil rights	
tangible	
struggle	
to resist	
imprisoned	
solitary confinement	
to defy	
injunction	
to spark	
outrage	
equality	
to disenfranchise	
plight	
to wane	
to inhibit	
to combat poverty	
mourning	

Martin Luther King	Timeline Key events
<p>Martin Luther King was born on 15 January 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia (US). Originally named Michael, he was later renamed Martin, like his father, a Baptist minister. His mother, Alberta Williams King, was a schoolteacher. He entered Morehouse College in 1944 [...] He was ordained in his last semester. He graduated from Morehouse in 1948 and undertook postgraduate study first at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and then, in 1951, at Boston University's School of Theology. Once there he completed his dissertation which, it was later revealed, had been partially plagiarised, and won his doctorate in 1955. It was in Boston that he met his wife Coretta Scott, who he married in 1953. In 1954, he became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where Rosa Parks was famously arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus.</p>	
1.	
<p>After Parks' arrest, King came to national prominence in the US. He was a leading figure in organising the boycott by African Americans of buses in Montgomery. [...] In 1957, King established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with fellow activists C.K. Steele, Fred Shuttlesworth and T.J. Jemison. As SCLC president, King was tasked with the coordination of civil rights activity across the region. However, he was not immediately successful. "People were wondering if he was qualified to be the national leader in the late 1950s," says Prof Kirk. "There was disillusionment with King to turn his words into a tangible programme."</p>	
2.	
<p>That changed in 1963. "King reasserted his pre-eminence within the African American freedom struggle through his leadership of the Birmingham campaign," [...] "The Birmingham demonstrations were the most massive civil rights protests that had yet occurred." In Birmingham, Alabama, desegregation was being violently resisted by the white population. The city was dubbed 'Bombingham', due to the frequency of attacks on black homes and activists. Imprisoned and held in solitary confinement after defying an injunction against the protests, Martin Luther King wrote his 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'. In response to criticism from local white clergymen, he set out his reasons for action in Birmingham and elsewhere. "For years now," he wrote, "I have heard the word 'Wait!' This 'Wait' has almost always meant 'Never'." After his release, in May, the Children's Crusade was launched. Thousands of school children and students staged marches in Birmingham. Television images of police using batons, dogs and high-pressure fire hoses against the young protesters sparked global outrage and won public support for King's cause.</p>	

3.	
<p>Success in Birmingham provided further impetus to the movement. This culminated in the massive March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on 28 August 1963. More than 200,000 people were in attendance at the Lincoln Memorial when King delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech, predicting a day when the promise of freedom and equality for all would become a reality in America. However, less than a month after King delivered his speech a blast killed four young girls in a Birmingham church. There was much work to be done if his dream was to be realised. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. That same year, a significant step forward was made with the passage of the Civil Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act followed in 1965, removing many of the barriers which had ensured African Americans could be disenfranchised in some states.</p>	
4.	
<p>He turned his attention to the plight of the urban poor in the north. With his family, he moved to an apartment in Chicago's black ghetto in 1966. Though not legally endorsed, segregation was an economic reality and the Chicago Campaign sought to combat this. However, King found that tactics which had worked in the South were less effective in the North. There was also growing support from within the movement for more militant methods of opposition. King found his message of non-violent action increasingly marginalised and his popularity waning. His opposition to America's involvement in the Vietnam War further inhibited his influence on national policy.</p>	
5.	
<p>The Poor People's Campaign was established in December 1967. SCLC lobbied the government to improve their efforts in combating poverty. On 3 April 1968, he arrived in Memphis, Tennessee to prepare for a march in support of striking sanitation workers. The following day, he was shot dead on his hotel balcony. The President, Lyndon B. Johnson, called for a national day of mourning. At his funeral, King's old friend Benjamin Mays delivered the eulogy: "Martin Luther King Jr. believed in a united America. He believed that the walls of separation brought on by legal and de facto segregation, and discrimination based on race and colour, could be eradicated. As he said in his Washington Monument address: 'I have a dream'."</p>	

Activity 3: Reading – “I have a dream”

Author: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Read the excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech: “I Have a Dream” und underline key words and expressions.

Summarize this excerpt in maximum 2 sentences.

Find the opposites among your key words and expressions and write them in the chart.

“And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still 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."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

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

I have a *dream* today!”

Activity 4: Read the text and answer the questions:

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/selma-montgomery-march>

Selma to Montgomery March

In early 1965, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) made Selma, Alabama, the focus of its efforts to register black voters in the South. That March, protesters attempting to march from Selma to the state capital of Montgomery were met with violent resistance by state and local authorities. As the world watched, the protesters (under the protection of federalized National Guard troops) finally achieved their goal, walking around the clock for three days to reach Montgomery. The historic march, and King's participation in it, greatly helped raise awareness of the difficulty faced by black voters in the South, and the need for a Voting Rights Act, passed later that year. [...]

1. Why did people walk from Selma to Montgomery?
2. How long did it take them?

Activity 5: Watch the film and answer the questions:

What was Montgomery Bus Boycott?

Who took part and why?

How many people took part in the boycott?

How long did it last?

Activity 6: Listen to the song and fill the gaps with the words below:

Song: Glory

Artists: Common and John Legend

freedom	peaceful	Victory
justice	resistance	war
King	Rosa	weapon
lethal	Selma	wisdom

Glory

One day, when the glory comes

It will be ours, it will be ours

Oh, one day, when the war is one

We will be sure, we will be here sure

Oh, glory, glory

Oh, glory, glory

Hands to the Heavens, no man, no

Formed against, yes glory is destined

Every day women and men become legends

Sins that go against our skin become blessings

The movement is a rhythm to us

..... is like religion to us

Justice is juxtaposition in us

..... for all just ain't specific enough

One son died, his spirit is revisitin' us

Truant livin' livin' in us, is us

That's why sat on the bus

That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up

When it go down we woman and man up

They say, "Stay down" and we stand up

Shots, we on the ground, the camera panned up

..... pointed to the mountain top and we ran up

One day, when the glory comes

It will be ours, it will be ours

Oh, one day, when the war is one

We will be sure, we will be here sure

Oh, glory, glory

Oh, glory, glory glory

Now the is not over

..... isn't won

And we'll fight on to the finish

Then when it's all done

We'll cry glory, oh glory

We'll cry glory, oh glory

.....'s now for every man, woman and child

Even Jesus got his crown in front of a crowd

They marched with the torch, we gon' run with it now

Never look back, we done gone hundreds of miles

From dark roads he rose, to become a

Facin' the league of justice, his power was the people

Enemy is, a king became regal

Saw the face of Jim Crow under a bald eagle

No one can win the war individually

It takes the of the elders and young people's energy

Welcome to the story we call victory

Comin' of the Lord, my eyes have seen the glory

One day, when the glory comes

It will be ours, it will be ours

Oh, one day, when the war is one

We will be sure, we will be here sure

Oh, glory, glory

Oh, glory, glory glory

When the war is done, when it's all said and done

We'll cry glory, oh glory