

Martin Luther King



WHO WAS MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist reverend and social activist. He led the **Civil Rights Movement** in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His dream was to extend **equal rights to all people regardless of race.**

EARLY LIFE

In the first part of the 20th century, in many parts of the country, African Americans could not participate in ordinary life: they couldn't eat at the same lunch tables, go to the same schools, or even use the same bathrooms as white people. This practice was called **segregation.**

Martin Luther King was born in **Georgia**, in 1929. He attended segregated public schools in Georgia and then went to Boston University. Up North, he noticed black and white people mixing more freely than in the South.

In 1953, Dr. King moved with his wife to **Montgomery**, Alabama, where he became a pastor and community leader.

ROSA PARK'S CASE

Transportation: white people and black people paid the same price to ride bus, but they didn't have the same rules. White people could sit up front, but black people had to sit in the back.

In 1955, a local woman named **Rosa Parks** was travelling on a crowded bus. When she refused to move to another part of the bus and give her seat to a white

man, she was arrested.

As a protest, King organized a **massive boycott** of the Montgomery Bus System. For almost a year black people refused to use segregated buses in Montgomery. The protest was non-violent, but King was arrested and his house was bombed. The boycott finished almost a year later, when the Supreme Court declared that the segregation on buses was unconstitutional.

I HAVE A DREAM

Over the next decade, King led protests and marches all over the country. The biggest one was the **March on Washington** for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

On August 28th 1963, some 250.000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to ask for equality, dignity and civil rights for Black people. In this occasion, Martin Luther King gave his famous speech "**I have a dream**". He talked about his dream for the future: a day when all people, black and white, could live together as brothers. In 1964 he received the **Nobel Peace Prize.**

King was assassinated on April 4th 1968. His violent death did not stop his ideals and his legacy is still with us today.