



Building a Teacher's Toolbox
Volume 2, Issue 1

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Welcome to Volume 2 of Building a Teacher's Toolbox!

I can't believe that it is time for Volume 2.

In the first issue, you will find additional attachments to the newsletter attachment. Those attachments are materials taken from *Challenger Second Edition Adult Reading Series*. This book series is published by New Readers Press, copyright 2010. The attachments are: article about President Barack Obama and his road to the White House including his inauguration speech, and also the answer key. Since January 20th is the one year anniversary of his inauguration, I thought this would make a timely reading comprehension, listening comprehension, or oral reading activity for your classes.

Included within this document are:

- Pages 2-5: History of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Page 6-Martin Luther King Jr. active links from infoplease.com. This would be an excellent resource to integrate technology in your class.
- Page 7-word search puzzle for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

I also invite you to visit the Adult Education website, which is <http://www.nhadulted.org/>

There is so much information on the website pertaining to adult education. Peruse it if you have the time. There is information on the GED, ESOL, Adult Basic Education, Adult Learner Services, (which is the tutorial program), Adult High School, and a link exclusively for Adult Educators in New Hampshire.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1964

Official name Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Observed by [United States](#)

Type National

Date The third Monday in January

2010 date [January 18](#)

2011 date [January 17](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a [United States holiday](#) marking the birthdate of [Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday, January 15. It is one of four United States [federal holidays](#) to commemorate an individual person.^[1]

King was the chief spokesman for [nonviolent](#) activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. He was [assassinated in 1968](#).

The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination. [Ronald Reagan](#) signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed in 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was founded as a holiday promoted by [labor unions](#) in contract negotiations.^[2] After King's death, [United States Representative John Conyers](#) (D-[Michigan](#)) introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage.^[3] Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office).^[3] Soon after, [The King Center](#) turned to support from the corporate community and the general public. The success of this strategy was cemented when [musician Stevie Wonder](#) released the single "[Happy Birthday](#)" to popularize the campaign in 1980 and hosted the Rally for Peace Press Conference in 1981. Six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress to pass the law, termed by a 2006 article in [The Nation](#) as "the largest petition in favor of an issue in U.S. history."^[2]

At the [White House Rose Garden](#) on November 2, 1983, [United States President Ronald Reagan](#) signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor King.^{[4][5]} It was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986.

The bill established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to oversee observance of the holiday, and [Coretta Scott King](#) was made a member of this commission for life by [United States President George H. W. Bush](#) in May, 1989.^{[6][7]}



 President [George H. W. Bush](#) signs Martin Luther King Day Proclamation^[8]

Reluctance to observe day

Senator [Jesse Helms](#) (R-North Carolina) led opposition to the bill and questioned whether King was important enough to receive such an honor. He also criticized King's opposition to the [Vietnam War](#) and accused him of espousing "action-oriented [Marxism](#)".^[9]

[Ronald Reagan](#) was also opposed to the holiday, citing cost concerns.^[10] He threatened to veto the King Day bill but recanted after Congress passed it with an overwhelming veto-proof majority (338 to 90 in the House of Representatives and 78 to 22 in the Senate).^[11]

[Sen. John McCain](#) (R-AZ) voted against the creation of the holiday to honor King, and later defended Arizona Republican Governor [Evan Mecham](#)'s rescinding of the state holiday in honor of King created by his Democratic predecessor. After his opposition grew increasingly untenable, McCain reversed his position, and encouraged his home state of Arizona to recognize the holiday despite opposition from Mecham.^[12]

In 1990, The Arizonans were given the opportunity to vote to observe an MLK holiday. McCain successfully appealed to former President Ronald Reagan to support the holiday.^[13] Prior to that date, [New Hampshire](#) and [Arizona](#) had not observed the day. Throughout the 1990s, this was heavily criticized. Following the failure of the 1990 proposition to recognize the holiday in Arizona, the [National Football League](#) moved [Super Bowl XXVII](#) from [Sun Devil Stadium](#) in [Tempe](#) to the [Rose Bowl](#) in [Pasadena, California](#).^[14] The [hip-hop](#) group [Public Enemy](#) recorded a song titled "By The Time I Get To Arizona", on their 1991 album [Apocalypse 91... The Enemy Strikes Black](#), in which they describe assassinating [Arizona Governor Fife Symington III](#) for his opposition to the holiday.

On May 2, 2000, South Carolina governor Jim Hodges signed a bill to make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday an official state holiday. South Carolina was the last state to recognize the day as a paid holiday for all state employees. Prior to this, employees could choose between celebrating Martin Luther King Day or one of three [Confederate](#) holidays.^[15]

There have also been supportive voices of King who argue that the national observance of his birthday actually domesticates his message.^[16] They suggest that by honoring him it enables the American people to forget how subversive he really was, and, therefore, they want a return to the serious implications of King's desire for a complete revolution.^[17]

Overall, in 2007, 33% of employers gave employees the day off, a 2% increase over the previous year. There was little difference in observance by large and small employers: 33% for firms with over 1,000 employees; and, 32% for firms with under 1,000 employees. The observance is most popular amongst nonprofit organizations and least popular among factories and manufacturers.^[18] The reasons for this have varied, ranging from the recent addition of the holiday (each year more businesses are closed than the year before, although often those that do choose to "make it up" by no longer closing for

[Presidents Day](#)) to its occurrence just two weeks after the week between [Christmas](#) and [New Year's Day](#), when many businesses are closed for part or sometimes all of the week. Additionally, many schools and places of higher education are closed for classes; others remain open but may hold seminars or celebrations of Dr. King's message.

Alternative names

While all states now observe the holiday, some did not name the day after King.

In [Utah](#), the holiday was known as "Human Rights Day" until the year 2000,^[19] when the Utah State Legislature voted to change the name of the holiday from Human Rights Day to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In that same year Governor [Michael O. Leavitt](#) signed the bill officially naming the holiday "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day".^{[19][20]}

In [Virginia](#), it was known as [Lee-Jackson-King Day](#).^{[19][21]} The incongruous nature of the holiday, which simultaneously celebrated the lives of [Confederate Army](#) generals and a civil rights icon, did not escape the notice of Virginia lawmakers. In 2000, a Martin Luther King Day was established in Virginia.^[22]

In [Arizona](#) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is known as "Martin Luther King Day"^[23], while in [New Hampshire](#), its official name is "Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day".^[24]

King Day of Service

The national Martin Luther King Day of Service was started by former Pennsylvania U.S. Senator [Harris Wofford](#) and Atlanta Congressman [John Lewis](#), who co-authored the King Holiday and Service Act. The federal legislation challenges Americans to transform the King Holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service in honor of Dr. King. The federal legislation was signed into law by President [Bill Clinton](#) on August 23, 1994. Since 1996, the annual Greater Philadelphia King Day of Service ^[1] has been the largest event in the nation honoring Dr. King.^[25]

Outside the US

One place where this day is observed as important is in the Japanese city of [Hiroshima](#) under mayor [Tadatoshi Akiba](#), who holds a special banquet at the mayor's office as an act of unifying his city's call for peace with King's message of human rights.^{[26][27]}

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr._Day

Martin Luther King Day

Biography, timeline, quotes, and more



This federal holiday honoring the civil rights leader is observed on the third Monday in January. In 2010, the holiday falls on Jan. 18.

Click on the links below for more information on the life of King and other important [civil rights leaders](#).

The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- [History of the Holiday](#)
- [Biography of Martin Luther King](#)
- [Timeline: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- [Civil Disobedience](#)
- [King Assassination Conspiracy Theories](#)
- [The March on Washington](#)
- [Excerpt from the "I Have a Dream" Speech](#)
- [Martin Luther King Speeches](#)
- [Quotes from Martin Luther King](#)

- [Martin Luther King **Quiz** \(for kids\)](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. **Crossword**](#)

Civil Rights and Affirmative Action

- [Biographies: Civil Rights Leaders](#)
- [Notable Speeches and Letters by African Americans](#)
- [Civil Rights Cases Reopened](#)
- [For Kids: Civil Rights Heroes](#)
- [Timeline: Modern Civil Rights](#)
- [Civil Rights in the United States](#)
- [Civil Rights **Quiz**](#)
- [Affirmative Action History](#)
- [Timeline: Affirmative Action](#)
- [Black History Month](#)
- [African American History Timeline](#)

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/mlkjrday1.html>

Martin Luther King Jr. Word Search Puzzle

Find the hidden words associated with civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

N E E T A P I C N A M E S A F S Y
O F R E E D O M R T D N S W G J T
N E M B V C M O P F E R K J U E J
V I P K V H T T N C Y E E S M C A
I K S Y H C G Q I Y V T T A S X J
O K U C O A M D I A T I R T M K Y
L L N D J T U S M I C I Y E B A L
E N E P X J S E X E A E L V B E T
N A Q T E M R E C O L C Y A A I R
C C I R A I I B T S S U K D U N L
E I P Q C R K N O O Q R E S W Q U
L R A A J T T X I Y R R H F G P E
L F N S S X E S J S C P L J Y C S
B A E C A E P H N I T O L I V I C
R I G H T S D A C O S E T C H A V
A L E M S I C A R I M P R T O B X
D I S C R I M I N A T E M U D R R
S N S L R E V E R E N D D A G V S

AFRICAN
AMERICAN
BOYCOTT
CIVIL
DEMONSTRATE
DISCRIMINATE
DOCTOR
DREAM
EMANCIPATE
EQUALITY
FREEDOM
JUSTICE
LEADER
LIBERTY
MINISTER
NONVIOLENCE
PEACE
PREJUDICE
PROTEST
RACISM
REVEREND
RIGHTS

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puzzles.about.com

<http://puzzles.about.com/od/wordsearches/1/qmlk.htm>