

Teacher's Notes & Answer Key

Level	Intermediate +
Lesson Aims	Learners will practice reading skills and speaking for fluency on the topic of Martin Luther King Jr. Students will develop their ability to locate and recognize word partnerships.
Timing	45-60 mins
Text source	Adapted from: todayifoundout.com/index.php/2013/01/martin-luther-king-jr-facts
Note	There are a number of short reading tasks, which can be omitted if short on time, or used as fast finisher tasks. The productive task can be a speaking or writing task

Teacher's Notes

- 1) **Lead in:** In pairs/groups students discuss what the 4 pictures (worksheet 1) have in common. WCFB

Answer: The queen, St. Patrick, Columbus and Martin Luther King all have a holiday dedicated to them.

- 2) **Pre-text task:** Focus on MLK, pairs discuss what they know about him, brief WCFB
- 3) **Pre-teach vocabulary** – matching words to meanings (1d, 2c, 3e, 4a, 5f, 6b)
- 4) **Prediction task:** Tell Students they are going to read a list of facts about Martin Luther King. Students predict if the statements are true or false (worksheet 1) in pairs
- 5) **Reading One:** Students read the text (worksheet 2) to check predictions, then pair check (*answers: a-True, b-False, she died of a heart attack, c-False, d-True, e-False, his father and grandfather were also ministers, f-False, he is the youngest male, Malala is the youngest person, g-False, he spent his honeymoon at a funeral parlor*)

- 6) **Reading Two:** Students scan the text to locate the importance of the numbers (answers: 1931 – his father’s trip to Germany that caused him to change his name, 1968 – the year he was killed, 15 – his age when he started college, 35 – his age when he won the Nobel Prize, 60 – the age his heart resembled at his death, 700 – the number of streets named after him)

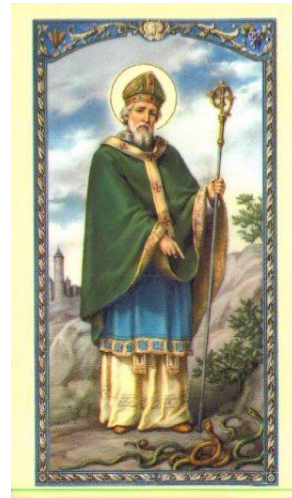
- 7) **Questions:** Students answer questions about the text (Answers: a) He tried to kill himself by jumping out the window, b) To hide the fact that King was a smoker from his kids, c) Yes, he skipped 2 grades in high school, d) She was shot while playing the organ in church, e) George Washington)

- 8) **Word partnerships:** Students match a word from the left column to form a word partnership with a word from the right column. Then check answers in text. Pair check and FB. (Fast finishers can see how many other partnerships they can make with the same words from the columns.) (Answers: commit suicide, book tour, serious doubts, profound truths, national holiday, major city) (Other partnerships could be: book (v.) a holiday, book a tour, city tour, national tour, profound doubts, major doubts, major holiday, holiday tour)

- 9) **Speaking/writing Task** – Students think about someone who should have a holiday to celebrate their life. They spend a few minutes to plan this, then either tell their partner/group or write their ideas in a paragraph. If writing, paragraphs can be posted around the room, students read to decide and vote on which of the people described is best.

Student Worksheet 1

What do these people have in common? Discuss in your group.



What do you know about Martin Luther King? Why is he famous? Why is there a holiday for him in the U.S.? Tell your partner and make notes together.

Vocabulary Match – Match an expression in column one to the meaning in column two.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1) theologian (n) | a) begin doing a job/hobby |
| 2) pass away (p-v) | b) a college where people study religion |
| 3) stigma (n) | c) die |
| 4) take up (p-v) | d) a specialist in religion |
| 5) skip (v) | e) a quality or behavior which causes shame |
| 6) seminary (n) | f) miss |

Task One - Read the information below and guess if the statements are True or False

- a) _____ Martin Luther King was named Michael, not Martin.
- b) _____ Another person at the hotel was also shot on the same day as MLK.
- c) _____ MLK was a non-smoker.
- d) _____ A woman had tried to kill him 10 years earlier.
- e) _____ He was the first person in his family to become a minister
- f) _____ He is the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace prize
- g) _____ He went to Hawaii for his honeymoon.

Now read the text to check your answers.

Student Worksheet 2

1) His name was originally Michael, not Martin. His father was also Michael King, hence why Martin Luther King Jr. was originally named Michael King Jr. However, after a trip to Germany in 1931, Michael King Sr. changed his own name in homage to historic German theologian Martin Luther. Michael King Jr. was two years old at the time and King Sr. made the decision to change his son's name to Martin Luther as well.

2) At the age of 12, he seems to have tried to commit suicide. It was May of 1941 when his grandmother passed away after a heart attack. At the time of this event, King Jr. was off disobeying his parents by going to watch a parade when they told him not too. When he came home and learned his grandmother had died, he went upstairs and jumped from the second story window of his house.

3) King wasn't the only one to die at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968. After he was killed, one of the hotel workers, Lorraine Bailey (who was also the wife of the motel owner and who it was named after), upon seeing King get shot, had a heart attack and later died from this.

4) Also on the day King was killed, he was out on the balcony for a smoke. While you'll be hard pressed to find a picture of him smoking, he smoked regularly, though had a habit of hiding this partially due to the stigma, particularly within the church at the time, but also because he didn't want his kids to take up smoking, and so didn't like pictures of himself doing it, nor did he like to smoke when they were around. According to Rev. Kyles, after King was shot but before he was taken away by the ambulance, Kyles removed the package of cigarettes from King's pocket and got rid of the cigarette butt, partially to attempt to hide the fact that King was smoking at the time he was shot.

5) Martin Luther King Jr. was nearly assassinated a decade earlier than his ultimate death. While on a book tour, signing copies of his book [Stride Toward Freedom](#), on September 20, 1958, King was approached by Izola Ware Curry who asked him if he was Martin Luther King Jr., which he of course replied affirmatively. When he said he was, she said "I've been looking for you for five years." She then pulled out a letter opener and stabbed him in the chest.

6) King Jr. skipped two grades in high school, 9th and 11th, and entered college (Moorehouse College) at the tender age of 15 in 1944. By 19, he received a bachelor's degree in sociology.

7) He almost didn't become a minister. After graduating from college, he still had serious doubts about Christianity and the Bible and told his father (who was a Baptist minister, as his grandfather had also been) that he didn't want to be a minister and instead was considering becoming a doctor or a lawyer. He later decided that the Bible had "many profound truths which one cannot escape" and chose to become a minister, entering seminary at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He graduated with his PhD at the age of 25.

8) His honeymoon was spent at a funeral parlor... not because someone died, simply because a friend owned the parlor and offered to let him use it for his honeymoon.

9) King is to date the youngest male to win a [Nobel Peace Prize](#), winning it in 1964 at the age of 35 (at the time he was the youngest overall for the Peace Prize). The youngest ever to win the Peace prize today is Malala Yousafzai who won it in 2014 at the age of 17.

10) His mother, Alberta Williams King, was also murdered. She was killed while attending church in Atlanta in 1974 by a 23 year old man, Marcus Wayne Chenault, who believed "all Christians are my enemies". He shot and killed her while she was playing organ at the church.

11) King Jr.'s autopsy revealed that stress had taken a major toll on his body. Despite being just 39 at the time of his death, one of the doctors noted that he had "the heart of a 60 year old".

12) There are only two other people in American history that have a national holiday in their honor, George Washington and Christopher Columbus. As such, Martin Luther King Jr. is the only native born United States citizen to have a national holiday in his honor.

13) Today over 700 streets in the United States are named after Martin Luther King Jr., with one such street in almost every major city. This is not even counting the amazing number of buildings, schools, and the like named after him.

Student Worksheet 3

Task Two – Why are these numbers important according to the text? Read to check.

1931

1968

15

35

60

700

Task Three - Read the questions below and find the answers in the text.

- a) What did he do when his grandmother died?
- b) Why did Rev. Kyles take the pack of cigarettes from King's body?
- c) Was he a good student in school? How do you know?
- d) How did his mother die?
- e) What other American had a public holiday named for him?

Task Four – Match words in the left column to words in the right column to make word partnerships. Check your answers in the text. Are there other partnerships (not in the text) that can be made using these words?

commit

doubts

book

truths

serious

suicide

profound

holiday

national

city

major

tour

Task Five – Speaking/Writing: Think about someone famous or someone you admire. Create a special holiday for them. Think about:

- Is he/she famous? Where? In your country? All over the world?
- How did their life help or influence the lives of others?
- What date would it be? Should it be a national holiday or a worldwide holiday?
- How should people celebrate the holiday? With parades, parties, or something else?
- Is there any special food that should be eaten on the day? Special drink?

Notes

Name	
Reason for the holiday	
Date	
How celebrated	
Food & drink	
Other notes	

Tell your partner or write a paragraph about the holiday you've created.