

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a great leader. He inspired many people. He brought about changes that are important to everyone in the United States. In fact, he is known around the world. He was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. That is a prize given to a person who is important to the world. It is a peace prize. He wanted people to change things peacefully. He thought that violence only led to more problems.

Dr. King used a way of changing things called non-violent protest. He saw that people were not treated fairly. He protested for civil rights. When he led marches, people were angry. But he was determined. Even though people shouted at him, he kept marching.

People who had been afraid to protest before were encouraged. They joined him. He was able to give them confidence. Together they would overcome. Soon thousands of people were with him. He was changing America.

He organized boycotts. A boycott means that people do not buy something or shop at a store or use a service. The boycott he led was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Before that boycott in 1955, African Americans could not ride in the front of buses. They had to sit or stand in the back even if there were seats in the front. Only whites could have those front seats. It took months, but they won. They got the right to sit anywhere in the bus.

Dr. King influenced many people. He reached them with his books and speeches. He gave a very inspiring speech in Washington, D.C. People call it his "I Have a Dream" speech. In it he told about what he had seen, the changes that had happened, and what would happen in the future.

Today the United States celebrates his life with a special holiday every year. On that day, people remember what he accomplished. They think about how he has made a difference to everyone in America.

Identify, analyze, and infer motive – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why did Dr. King want to change things in the United States?

- a. He was a preacher.
- b. He led marches.
- c. He was angry.
- d. He wanted more fairness.

3. Why did people join Dr. King?

- a. They were afraid.
- b. He was inspiring.
- c. They wanted to be seen with him.
- d. They had problems.

2. Why did Dr. King use nonviolence?

- a. He did not think violence was good.
- b. There were many problems.
- c. Violence is dangerous.
- d. People would be afraid.

4. Why would people boycott?

- a. to save money
- b. to punish someone
- c. to make a change
- d. to show how they feel

5. Write your own answer to this question. Why would people join a Civil Rights march?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	d	a	b	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
To make a change. To join together. To protest.