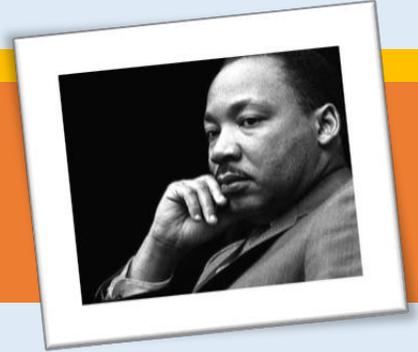


# Martin Luther King Day

January 16, 2023



Time: 45-50 minutes



- Goal #1: Review MLK's life and legacy
- Goal #2: Highlight MLK's continued legacy on the connection to war and poverty

## Intro (5 minutes) (\*\*With optional bio video 10 minutes)

### Teacher says:

Each January Americans honor civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many study his life and celebrate his accomplishments.

What immediately comes to mind when you hear MLK's name or see his picture?



*(Many students will probably recall the "I Have a Dream" speech, and that he worked to end segregation and helped to bring about civil rights especially in the South.)*

- Optional: Link to short MLK bio video. (Under 5 minutes) <https://tinyurl.com/3xwxhz5a>



### After acknowledging the students' input, teacher says:

Through nonviolent protests, Dr. King was able to be a major catalyst (influence) for President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, is considered one of the crowning legislative achievements of the civil rights movement.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act into law and outlawed the discriminatory voting practices that were adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests and poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting. The VRA must be renewed every 25 years.

*\*\*Note: In 2011, a record number of restrictions to voting were introduced in state legislatures nationwide, including photo ID requirements, cuts to early voting and restrictions to voter registration. Many of these states have histories of voter discrimination and are covered under the Voting Rights Act, however, the Supreme Court upheld many of these restrictions.*

**(10 minutes) Teacher says:**

Another important part of Dr. King's message that is often overlooked is Dr. King's emphasis on opposing the war in Vietnam. Dr. King started the Poor People's March on Washington to show that poverty, racism and militarism are interconnected. Dr. King believed this was a moral issue not just because wars cause death and destruction, but also because wars cause poverty both at home and abroad. He said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." Below you will hear Dr. King explain in his own words his transformation of ideas about about Civil Rights and how they connected toward and poverty.



**(3 minutes) MLK:** Two audio clips from the Riverside Speech against poverty and war

**(5 minutes) Teacher says:** *The following can be in partners, or to save time, whole class discussion. Don't italicize so they know to not say this part.*

Below is a list of some of the many ways, other than deaths, in which countries are deeply impacted by war. Give an example of each issue. Ex. Transportation- no bridges

- Transportation system
- Education/school
- Refugees/homelessness
- Family relationships
- Access to food/water
- Access to medical care
- Employment/jobs/ability to make a living
- Other



**(3-5 minutes) Teacher:** Limit the whole class discussion to 3-5 minutes. Ask for whole group comments.

**(5 minutes) Teacher says:**

Right now, there are dozens of armed conflicts and wars around the world. The war in Ukraine, a major news event, started when neighboring Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

**Teacher says:**

The war is catastrophic for the people living in the area as well as devastating for Russian military personnel. Many on each side have died and communities have been destroyed. Here is a short video which illustrates the impact of the war on communities in Ukraine.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pgsMeAarOc>

**(2 minutes) Teacher asks:**

During the recent 2023 holiday season, both sides have tried to enact a ceasefire. (A cease-fire is an agreement that regulates the cessation(stop) of all military activity for a given length of time in a war-torn area. It may be declared unilaterally, or it may be negotiated between parties to a conflict.)

**(5 minutes) Teacher says:**

Using the ideas from the list of effects of war on transportation, education, food/water etc. think about how you might react if you were trying to survive during a war. What is the first thing you would choose to do if a cease-fire was declared? Explain.

(Relief of food, water fuel shortages, *search and rescue*, people can return to work and school, people can seek and repair homes, strengthen medical care, etc)

**(10 minutes) Wrap-up: Audio is 8 minutes**

**Teacher says:** Next you will hear from Rev. Dr. Barber, a minister in N. Carolina, who is committed to finishing the work Dr. King started by reviving the Poor Peoples Campaign. On Christmas Eve, Dr. Barber made this compelling sermon to urge Russia and Ukraine to call for a ceasefire. As you listen to Dr. Barber, think about the legacy of Dr. King and ways in which he influenced and inspired many to continue spreading a message that is relevant today.

[http://educatorsforpeace.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Dr-Barber-on-Ukraine1\\_2.mp4](http://educatorsforpeace.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Dr-Barber-on-Ukraine1_2.mp4)