

## A2 Freedom fighters

Lesson 6

Link: History,  
Social studies

### Martin Luther King

When Martin Luther King was born in 1929, black people in the USA could not mix with white people. This was called "segregation". King was inspired by Gandhi and followed his teachings of non-violent protest against this discrimination.

In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama - where King was a pastor in the Baptist Church - there was a famous incident which led to the first great black peaceful demonstration in the USA and the start of the "Negro Revolution". A courageous black woman called Rosa Parks was travelling on a bus which had separate sections for whites and blacks. The white section was full so when a white man wanted to sit down, the driver told four black people to move. Rosa refused and she was arrested.

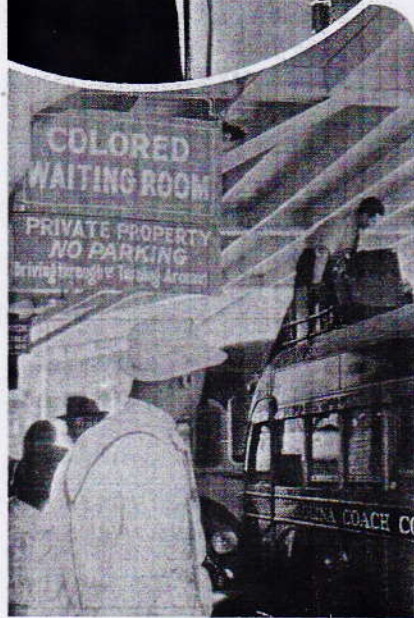
King organised a boycott: for three months black people refused to use segregated buses in Montgomery. The protest was non-violent, but King was arrested and his house was bombed. However, the boycott was successful. The following year, segregation on buses stopped when the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional. King became world famous. On August 28<sup>th</sup> 1963, thousands of people went to the National Mall in Washington, DC to listen to 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. *Time* magazine named him "Man of the Year" and the next year he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1968, when he was in Memphis, Tennessee, to support a protest, he was assassinated. As with Lincoln and Gandhi before him, his violent death did not stop his ideals and his legacy is still with us today.

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Martin Luther King



On 20th January, 2009 his dream came true. Barack Obama became the first African American President with his victory over Republican candidate Senator John McCain.

Millions of people remembered the words of Martin Luther King as Obama stood the podium and accepted one of the most important jobs in the world.

Many people think that Obama's speeches are like King's. In November 2009 he made his famous election speech: "All things are possible...".

