

MARCH ON! THE DAY MY BROTHER MARTIN CHANGED THE WORLD

March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World

By Christine King Farris, ill. by London Ladd

Ages: 8-12

Themes: Biography, History and Government, African-American Culture, Civil Rights Movement, 14th Amendment, Prejudice

Running Time: 18 minutes

SUMMARY

This movie, told through the eyes of Dr. King's sister, brings the excitement, hope, and power of the March on Washington alive. Students will gain insight into Dr. King's own journey to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, as well as feel the motivation and diversity of the thousands that came to hear him speak. Personal details lend an air of familiarity to the iconic figure that Martin Luther King, Jr. has become. This movie serves as an excellent addition to any Civil Rights curriculum, and will gently, but powerfully, help students explore the not-so-long-ago time in U.S. history when racism, prejudice, and segregation were legally upheld.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify and research key figures in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Students will create a Civil Rights map that identifies important Civil Rights sites in the U.S.
- Students will listen to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and write "Dream Statements" of their own.
- Students will develop their vocabulary related to Civil Rights.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use a KWL chart to elicit background knowledge (a three-columned chart: What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned). Allow students to brainstorm what they know about the Civil Rights Movement, important Civil Rights figures, and the causes of the Civil Rights Movement. Record all of this information in the What I Know column of the KWL chart. Next, have students generate a list of questions or areas they want to know more about. Record these ideas in the next column. Ask students if they are familiar with the Bill of Rights or the 14th Amendment. Record the students' background knowledge, if any. Tell them that they are about to

watch a movie about Martin Luther King, Jr., a very instrumental figure in the Civil Rights movement. Encourage students to watch and listen for the names of people or events that they recognize. Revisit the KWL chart after viewing the movie to fill in the What I Learned column.

Preview some of the vocabulary from the movie: **protest, equality, nation, nonviolence, liberty.** Each student should write the new word on the front of an index card. On the back of the index card, students should write the definition of the word and a picture that represents the meaning of the word. Encourage students to listen for the words in the movie and to write down any context clues from the movie that would also help them to remember the meaning of the word.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Revisit the KWL chart. Students should independently make a list of what they learned from the movie. Then, have students share what they learned and record it on the KWL chart. Students can choose one of the most important or interesting events or people that they learned about to do a project or research report on. Help them find resources on the internet or in the library. Provide project ideas such as a skit of one of the events, a research paper on a person, or a newspaper article about the event or person. Students should incorporate their new vocabulary words into these projects.

Use a U.S. map to guide students through identifying important Civil Rights sites. Start by identifying some of the places mentioned in the movie, such as Detroit, Chicago, Birmingham, and Memphis. Have students color the states and label the cities. A useful website is: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/mlk/maps/maps_pop.html. This interactive map pinpoints 23 locations that played a role in the Civil Rights movement. By clicking on each site, students can read a brief description of what happened there. To extend this activity, provide students with a blank U.S. map. Print the descriptions of what happened at each location from the website. Have students color each state as you click on it, and label the city on the map. Then, students can cut out the description from the website printout and glue it on the side of the map.

Download and play Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. The full text, audio, and video of the speech can be found at: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>. Encourage students to pay particular attention to what specific dreams Dr. King had. If students have a copy of the text, they can highlight or underline some of the key parts of the speech. After students have listened to and discussed Dr. King's dreams, guide them through brainstorming and writing a statement articulating their own dreams.

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