

## Homework activity worksheet

**Read** the text about Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement. Decide if the statements below are true or false. **Correct** the false statements with the true ones.

### Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights

**From the 16<sup>th</sup> century many African slaves were brought to work on plantations** of the southern states of the United States of America. They were not free and they worked without a salary.

**In 1865 slavery was abolished in the USA, but black Americans were not equal to white Americans.** They could not vote or go to the same school where white people went. **There was segregation, which means separation between white Americans and people of colour.**

**Martin Luther King was a Baptist clergyman** born in Alabama in 1929, a southern State of the United States.

At that time living in southern states was really scary for many people of colour. There was segregation and racism, in fact black people were terrorised with violence and lynching by the Ku Klux Klan, a secret organisation.

**Martin Luther King became the leader of the largest non-violent movement of protest.** After the arrest of Rosa Parks, King started protesting against the bus company, so for many weeks black people stopped getting on buses and the bus companies lost a lot of money. This boycott put an end to segregation.

**In 1963 Martin Luther King and his Movement led 250,000 people in a march on Washington DC,** where he gave one of the most famous speeches of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, called 'I have a dream' speech, **about the equality between black and white citizens.**

**In 1964 Martin Luther King won the Nobel Prize for Peace.**

**In 1968 he was assassinated, but he could see the abolition of segregation in 1965.**

Segregation meant that black and white people had separate schools, restaurants, buses. Black people could have a lot of trouble if they used things only for white people.

The United States of America was not the only country where black people were segregated, South Africa did too.

Civil rights are good, equal treatment for all citizens whatever their colour, race, religion or other beliefs.

Statement	True	False
In the 16 <sup>th</sup> century there was slavery in the USA.		
In 1965 slavery was abolished in the USA.		
Many slaves were taken from Asia to work on plantations of southern states of the USA.		
Even after the abolition of slavery black Americans did not have the same rights of white Americans.		
In the southern part of the USA there were neither segregation nor racism and black people lived with white people in peace.		
The Ku Klux Klan was a violent organisation, which lynched and terrorised many people of colour.		
Martin Luther King was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.		
Rosa Parks led the march on Washington.		
The bus boycott organised by Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement was a failure.		
Martin Luther King gave his famous 'I have dream' speech during the march in Washington.		
King died before racial discrimination laws were abolished.		
He won the Nobel Prize for Physics.		

**Useful glossary.**

Neither ...nor...: nè ....nè...

Lynch: linciare (picchiare a morte)

Failure: fallimento

Racial discrimination: discriminazione razziale

Physics: fisica

If you want, you can listen to a short part of Martin Luther King's famous speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgYzJGmBXU8>