I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

—Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday in the United States honoring the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. King was a Baptist minister and Civil Rights leader who advocated the use of nonviolent means like protests, marches, and other peaceful actions to end racial segregation and injustices.

This holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year, marking King’s January 15th birthday.

MAG Connection
The artist Jacob Lawrence painted this artwork in 1948, many years before Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous “I have a dream . . .” speech delivered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. But the painting and the words seem to go together!
Be Inspired!
Create your own artwork to portray Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words!

King was famous for his powerful speeches as well as letters written to his family and supporters. Choose one of King’s other quotes below; how would you illustrate his words?

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”

“No person has the right to rain on your dreams.”

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

“We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.”

In His Own Voice

Listen to examples of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s powerful words:

Five of King’s Most Memorable Speeches