

Fighting for Our Rights

Freedom and individual rights are important values to Americans.

However, in U.S. history, not everyone has had the same freedoms.

One group that was discriminated against was African Americans.

After the Civil War, they did not have the same schools, jobs, or housing as other Americans.

Another group of people who did not have equal rights was women.

For example, women did not have the right to vote.

Voting, education, and being treated equally are civil rights.

There were several social movements for civil rights in this country.

Susan B. Anthony and Martin Luther King, Jr. were two leaders who fought for civil rights.



An African American man drinking at a colored water cooler in Oklahoma City, OK, 1939.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-fsa-8a26761.

Until 1920, women were not allowed to vote in political elections. This image shows two women petitioning for the right to vote (ca. 1917) in New York State.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-53202

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony fought for women's rights and civil rights.

She wanted equal education and voting rights for women and African American people.

She organized conventions and protests.

She made speeches and published a newspaper about women's rights.

She asked members of Congress to change the laws about voting.

Susan B. Anthony died in 1906.

In 1920, women got the right to vote.



*Women demonstrating in New York in 1908.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ggbain-02466.*



*Women on their way from New York to Boston in 1914.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ggbain-13711.*



*Susan B. Anthony
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-83145.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was one important leader of the civil rights movement.

The civil rights movement tried to end racial discrimination. One kind of discrimination was segregation.

Segregation separated African Americans from other people in schools, restaurants, buses, and other public places.

Dr. King gave speeches and organized marches to stop this.

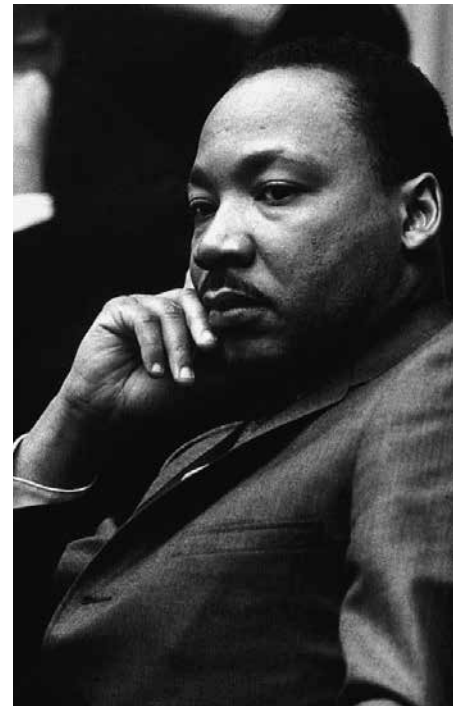
He made one famous speech, “I Have a Dream,” in Washington, D.C.

On April 4, 1968, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Every January, we remember him on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



*Demonstrators at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-03128.*



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Matching—Susan B. Anthony and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Review the rights from the First Amendment.

Then read the sentences about these civil rights leaders.

Decide which right or freedom they exercised.

These are the freedoms or rights from the First Amendment:

★ Freedom of Speech

★ Freedom of Religion

★ Freedom of Assembly

★ Freedom of the Press

★ Right to Petition the Government

Which First Amendment rights did they exercise?

1. Susan B. Anthony published a newspaper about women's rights.

2. Dr. King gave the speech, "I have a Dream," in Washington, D.C.

3. Susan B. Anthony organized conventions and protests.

4. Dr. King was a Baptist minister in Georgia.

5. Susan B. Anthony asked members Congress to change laws about voting.

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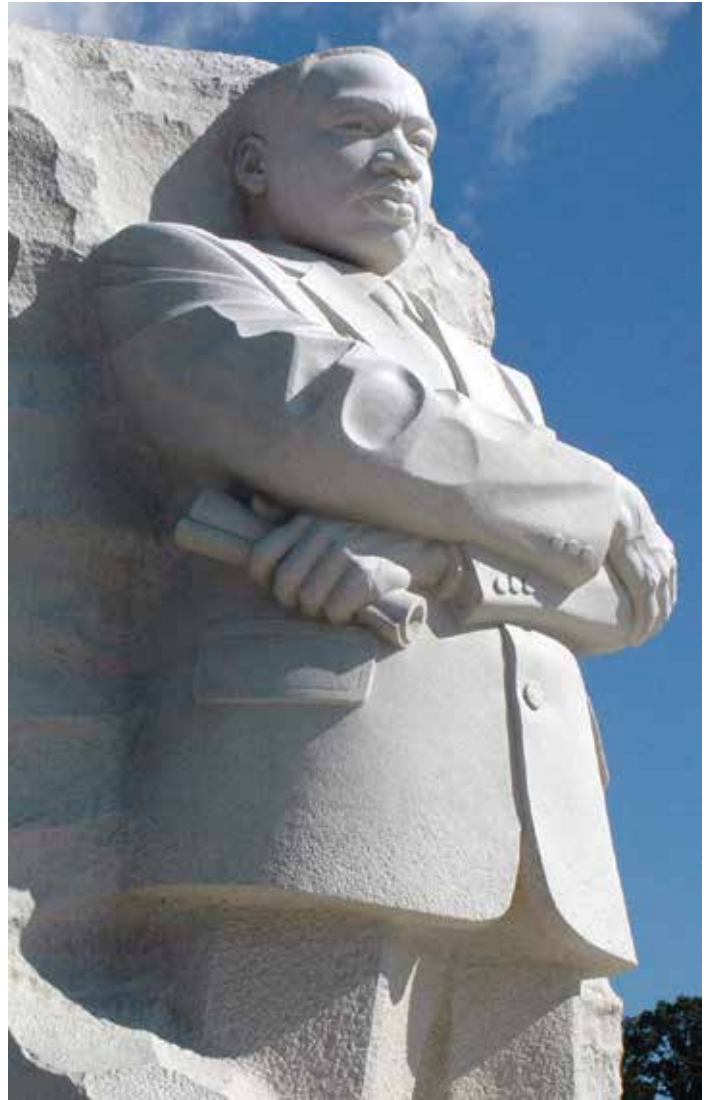
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*The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC.
Courtesy of the National Park Service.*

Copy the sentence.

We celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January.

We cel_____ M_____ L_____ K_____, Jr. Day in Jan_____.

_____ K_____, _____.