

Assembly notes: Martin Luther King Day

Slide one: Who was Martin Luther King Jr?

Slide two: What is this picture about?

- This is a photo of the annual Dr Martin Luther King Jr parade in Washington, D.C.
- Martin Luther King led several famous and important marches in his lifetime, like the March on Washington in 1963.

Slide three: Discuss — Why do we celebrate Martin Luther King Day?

(Ask for volunteers. Suggested answers: Martin Luther King protested against racial discrimination. He believed in nonviolent protest.)

Slide four: Key facts about Martin Luther King Day. Originally President Reagan was against the idea of a holiday because he was worried about cost concerns.

Slide five: What is this picture about?

- This is President Barack Obama volunteering at a soup kitchen on Martin Luther King Day.
- Although it is a bank holiday in the US, many people see it as a “day on”, rather than a “day off”, and use it to volunteer for a good cause.

Slide six: Video — This is Martin Luther King’s powerful final speech, “I have been to the mountaintop”. He made it to a packed church in Memphis, Tennessee, on 3 April 1968, just a day before he was killed. (1:13)

Slide seven: Discuss — How does Martin Luther King use language? (Volunteers.)

Suggestions: He uses simple, direct language: “I don’t mind.” He also uses powerful imagery: “The promised land.” He uses repetition. “Long life...longevity.”

Slide eight: A quote from Martin Luther King. (Discuss: What could you learn from King’s style to make you a better speaker?)