

Martin Luther KING

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal'"



Jan 15, 1929: Michael Luther King Jr. born in Atlanta, Georgia. Son of a Baptist minister, his mother is a schoolteacher. He is renamed **Martin** when he is about six years old

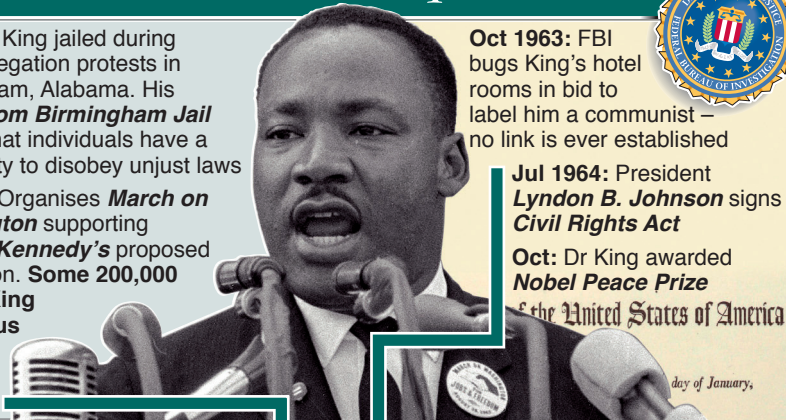
1934-51: Educated at segregated schools in Georgia, eventually gaining a **Bachelor of Divinity** degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania

1955: After **Rosa Parks** is arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, Dr King heads 381-day-long **Montgomery Bus Boycott** in Alabama. King is arrested and his home is bombed. **Protest leads to Supreme Court ruling** that laws requiring segregated buses are unconstitutional



1963: Dr King jailed during anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Alabama. His **Letter from Birmingham Jail** argues that individuals have a moral duty to disobey unjust laws

Aug 28: Organises **March on Washington** supporting President **John F. Kennedy's** proposed civil rights legislation. **Some 200,000 people listen** as King delivers his famous **I Have a Dream** speech at **Lincoln Memorial**



Oct 1963: FBI bugs King's hotel rooms in bid to label him a communist – no link is ever established

Jul 1964: President **Lyndon B. Johnson** signs **Civil Rights Act**

Oct: Dr King awarded **Nobel Peace Prize** of the United States of America

day of January,

1934 '53

1955

1957

1963

'64

'65

'66

'67

'68

Jun 18, 1953: Marries **Coretta Scott**. They go on to have two sons and two daughters

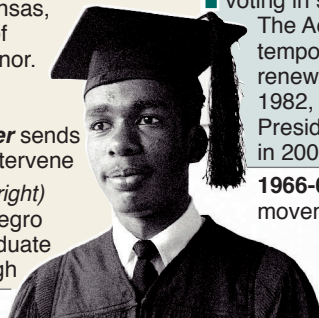


1955: Receives doctorate from Boston University

1957: Co-founds **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** advocating non-violent struggle against racism

Sep: Nine black students are blocked from entering all-white **Central High School** in Little Rock, Arkansas, on orders of state governor. President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** sends troops to intervene

Ernest Green (right) becomes first Negro in history to graduate from Central High



1965: U.S. Congress passes **Voting Rights Act** which outlaws practices such as **literacy tests** and **poll tax** which bar black citizens from voting in southern states.

The Act – originally a temporary measure – is renewed in 1970, 1975, 1982, and most recently by President **George W. Bush** in 2006

1966-67: Civil rights movement radicalised by **Black Power**. Race riots in Newark and Detroit shock nation

1967: King leads his first **anti-Vietnam War** march in Chicago

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King is shot dead as he stands on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee

