



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Timeline

- January 15, 1929** Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.
- September 20, 1944** Starts his first year at Morehouse College in Atlanta at the age of 15.
- August 6, 1946** King's "Kick Up Dust" Letter to the Editor is published in the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper. In it King voices his belief that African Americans "are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens."
- February 25, 1948** Ordained a Baptist minister.
- June 8, 1948** Graduates from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Sociology.
- September 14, 1948** Starts his first year at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.
- May 8, 1951** Graduates from Crozer Theological Seminary with a bachelor of divinity degree.
- September 13, 1951** Begins his doctoral studies at Boston University.
- June 18, 1953** Marries Coretta Scott.
- June 5, 1955** Graduates from Boston University with a doctorate in systematic theology.
- November 17, 1955** Coretta gives birth to their first child, Yolanda Denise King.
- December 5, 1955** Elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Organization which was formed soon after the arrest of Rosa Parks. The MIO assisted with the Montgomery bus boycott.
- January 30, 1956** King's home is bombed.
- November 13, 1956** U.S. Supreme Court declares bus segregation laws are unconstitutional.
- December 21, 1956** King is one of the first people to ride on a Montgomery city bus that is unsegregated.
- February 18, 1957** Appears on the cover of *Time Magazine*.
- May 17, 1957** King gives his "Give Us the Ballot" speech to a crowd of 15,000 at the Lincoln Memorial.
- June 13, 1957** Ralph D. Abernathy and King meet with Vice President Richard Nixon.
- October 23, 1957** Coretta gives birth to their second child, Martin, III.

June 23, 1958	King meets with President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
September 17, 1958	King's book <i>Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story</i> is published.
February 3, 1959	Goes to India to study Gandhi's methods of nonviolent resistance.
October 19, 1960	Is arrested for participating in a sit-in demonstration at a department store in Atlanta, Georgia.
January 31, 1961	Coretta gives birth to their third child, Dexter Scott.
October 16, 1961	Meets with President John F. Kennedy to recommend that a second Emancipation Proclamation be issued to eliminate segregation.
December 16, 1961	King is arrested at a protest in Albany, Georgia.
July 27, 1962	King is arrested at a prayer vigil in Albany, Georgia.
March 28, 1963	Coretta gives birth to their fourth child, Bernice Albertine.
April 12, 1963	King is arrested in Birmingham, Alabama.
April 16, 1963	Writes "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."
August 28, 1963	King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech to more than 200,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial. Afterwards, he meets with President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.
January 3, 1964	King is named "Man of the Year" in <i>Time Magazine</i> .
December 10, 1964	Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
August 6, 1965	Voting Rights Act is signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson. It allows African Americans the right to vote. King now turns his attention to improving socioeconomic conditions.
April 4, 1968	King is fatally shot in Memphis, Tennessee.