

# "I HAVE A DREAM"

READ THE EXTRACT FROM DR. KING'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH AND THINK ABOUT HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD. YOU MAY WISH TO READ THE SPEECH MORE THAN ONCE OR LOOK-UP THE ENTIRE SPEECH.

"...THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST SAY TO MY PEOPLE, WHO STAND ON THE WARM THRESHOLD WHICH LEADS INTO THE PALACE OF JUSTICE:

IN THE PROCESS OF GAINING OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE, WE MUST NOT BE GUILTY OF WRONGFUL DEEDS. LET US NOT SEEK TO SATISFY OUR THIRST FOR FREEDOM BY DRINKING FROM THE CUP OF BITTERNESS AND HATRED.

WE MUST FOREVER CONDUCT OUR STRUGGLE ON THE HIGH PLANE OF DIGNITY AND DISCIPLINE.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR CREATIVE PROTEST TO DEGENERATE INTO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. AGAIN AND AGAIN, WE MUST RISE TO THE MAJESTIC HEIGHTS OF MEETING PHYSICAL FORCE WITH SOUL FORCE.

I SAY TO YOU TODAY, MY FRIENDS, THAT IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THE MOMENT,

**I STILL HAVE A DREAM.**

IT IS A DREAM DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE AMERICAN DREAM.

## 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...'

## I HAVE A DREAM

THAT MY FOUR CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOUR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

## I HAVE A DREAM TODAY...

WHEN WE LET FREEDOM RING, WHEN WE LET IT RING FROM EVERY VILLAGE AND EVERY HAMLET, FROM EVERY STATE AND EVERY CITY,

WE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEED UP THAT DAY WHEN ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, BLACK MEN AND WHITE MEN, JEWS AND GENTILES, PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS, WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN HANDS AND SING IN THE WORDS OF THE OLD NEGRO SPIRITUAL,

'FREE AT LAST! FREE AT LAST!  
THANK GOD ALMIGHTY,

**WE ARE FREE AT LAST!"**

To watch Dr. King's speech on 28 August 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. and to see the full transcript visit:  
<http://www.mlkonline.net/video-i-have-a-dream-speech.html>

# YOUR DREAM

IN YOUR GROUPS, CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND THEN COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW. IN PARTICULAR, CONSIDER THAT AN IMPORTANT PART OF JEREMY GILLEY'S WORK IS THE IDEA OF 'NO BLAME, NO SHAME.' HIS MOTHER USED IT AS HER FAMILY MOTTO. JEREMY BELIEVES THAT THIS IDEA IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE AS SOON AS WE BLAME PEOPLE DURING A CONFLICT, THEY CAN BECOME DEFENSIVE AND REACT AGGRESSIVELY. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THE CONFLICT INEVITABLY CARRIES ON.

When we blame others we create separation. Unresolved conflicts branch into an unhealthy web of new conflicts. We need to focus on and address the root cause. When we choose not to blame we empower ourselves

and inspire others by example. This is not always the easiest path to take, but as you can see by the example set by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is one that has a powerful effect on others.

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., "I HAVE A DREAM"

Sometimes one person can influence millions by his/her example, or by words that stir people's hearts and inspire them to act.

On **Resource C1** is an excerpt from a speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who worked for the rights of black people in America.

He was assassinated in 1968, but the world has remembered his example and his work continues.

Dr. King will always be remembered as a great believer in the power of peace to bring people together and create change.

### DISCUSS AND ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP:

1. What is Dr. King's message to the world?
2. Look at the first paragraph on **Resource C1**. How does Dr. King's message of non-violence make his argument stronger?
3. What dream would you have to bring peace to people you know?

Start each idea with "I HAVE A DREAM..."

and think of things you would really like to see happen to help others.

**IMPORTANT!!** Don't forget the **THREE STEPS TO PEACE ONE DAY**

Ask your teacher about this.

Young People can take the lead. **YOU** can make a difference.

