MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/martin_luther_king_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
THE READING / TAPESCRIPIT

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday that celebrates the birth date of one of America’s greatest civil rights leaders. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the actual holiday is on the third Monday in January. The holiday recognizes the great achievements Martin Luther King made to American society. His leadership in the campaign to achieve equal rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus on non-violent protests led to new laws that ended racial discrimination in America. The USA became a more equal society. The holiday is only one of four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. This shows just how important Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans ever.

Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. Just 15 years later, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan signed this holiday into U.S. law. People first observed the holiday three years later, in 1986. At first, the holiday was not popular with all American states. Some didn’t like the name and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in the year 2000, all 50 states observed the holiday using its correct name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped the campaign for the holiday. He released a hit single called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people signed a petition for the American Congress to create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history in favour of an issue.
PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

1. one of America’s greatest civil rights leaders  
2. The holiday recognizes the great achievements  
3. the campaign to achieve equal rights  
4. His focus on non-violent protests  
5. new laws that ended racial discrimination  
6. four national holidays in America to commemorate a person

Paragraph 2

1. Dr. King was assassinated three years later  
2. People first observed the holiday in 1968  
3. At first, the holiday was not popular  
4. all 50 states observed the holiday using its correct name  
5. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign  
6. the largest petition in U.S. history
LISTENING GAP FILL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday ________________ birth date of one of America’s greatest civil rights leaders. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the actual holiday ________________ Monday in January. The holiday ________________ achievements Martin Luther King made to American society. His leadership in the campaign ________________ rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus on non-violent protests led to new laws that ended racial discrimination in America. The USA ________________ society. The holiday is only one of four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. This ________________ important Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans ever.

Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. ________________, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan signed this ________________. People first observed the holiday three years later, in 1986. At first, the holiday was not ________________ American states. Some didn’t like the name and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in the year 2000, all 50 states observed the holiday ________________ name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped the campaign for the holiday. He released a hit single called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people ________________ for the American Congress to create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history ________________ issue.
WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday that __________ the birth date of one of America’s greatest civil rights __________. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the actual holiday is on the _________ Monday in January. The holiday recognizes the great achievements Martin Luther King made to American __________. His leadership in the campaign to achieve equal rights for black Americans changed America _________.

His focus on non-violent protests led to new laws that ended _________ discrimination in America. The USA became a more equal society. The holiday is only one of four national holidays in America to commemorate a _________.

This shows just how important Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans _________.

Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. Just 15 years _________, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan signed this holiday into U.S. law. People first __________ the holiday three years later, in 1986. At first, the holiday was not _________ with all American states. Some didn’t like the _________ and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in the year 2000, all 50 states observed the holiday _________ its correct name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped the campaign for the holiday. He released a hit _________ called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people signed a _________ for the American Congress to create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history in favour of an _________.
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD
Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday that *celebrating* / *celebrates* the birth *date* / *dates* of one of America’s greatest civil rights leaders. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the *actually* / *actual* holiday is on the third Monday in January. The holiday recognizes the *great* / *grate* achievements Martin Luther King made to American society. His leadership in the campaign to achieve *equals* / *equal* rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus on non-violent protests led to new laws that ended *racially* / *racial* discrimination in America. The USA became a more equal society. The holiday is only *one* / *once* of four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. This shows just how *importance* / *important* Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans ever.

Dr. King was *assassinated* / *assassination* in 1968. Just 15 years later, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan *signal* / *signed* this holiday into U.S. law. People first observed the holiday three years later, in 1986. *At* / *On* first, the holiday was not *popular* / *popularity* with all American states. Some didn’t like the name and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in the year 2000, all 50 states *observe* / *observed* the holiday using its correct name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped the *campaign* / *campaigned* for the holiday. He released a hit single called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people signed a *competition* / *petition* for the American Congress to create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history in *against* / *favour* of an issue.
MULTIPLE CHOICE

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday that (1) ____ the birth date of one of America’s greatest (2) ____ rights leaders. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the actual holiday is on the third Monday in January. The holiday (3) ____ the great achievements Martin Luther King made to American society. His leadership in the campaign to achieve (4) ____ rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus (5) ____ non-violent protests led to new laws that ended racial discrimination in America. The USA became a more equal society. The holiday is only (6) ____ of four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. This shows just how important Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans ever.

Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. Just 15 years (7) ____, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan signed this holiday into U.S. law. People first observed the holiday three years later, in 1986. At first, the holiday was not (8) ____ with all American states. Some didn’t like the name and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in the year 2000, all 50 states observed the holiday (9) ____ its correct name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped the campaign (10) ____ the holiday. He released a hit single called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people (11) ____ a petition for the American Congress to create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history in favour of an (12) ____.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1. (a) celebration  (b) celebrates  (c) celebrated  (d) celebratory
2. (a) civil  (b) civilian  (c) civility  (d) civil war
3. (a) recognize  (b) recognition  (c) recognizes  (d) recognized
4. (a) equality  (b) equals  (c) equaled  (d) equal
5. (a) at  (b) in  (c) by  (d) on
6. (a) once  (b) ones  (c) one  (d) oneness
7. (a) earlier  (b) later  (c) time  (d) then
8. (a) popularity  (b) population  (c) popularize  (d) popular
9. (a) used  (b) used to  (c) using  (d) uses
10. (a) for  (b) by  (c) at  (d) at
11. (a) signed  (b) signature  (c) sign  (d) signs
12. (a) issued  (b) issue  (c) issues  (d) issuing
SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the brtih date
2. the claatu holiday is on the third Monday
3. American oeisyc
4. changed America rrovfee
5. a more guela society
6. commemorate a psnroe

Paragraph 2

7. Dr. King was sdessaanista in 1968
8. Ronald Reagan indegs this holiday into U.S. law
9. not oaruppl with all American states
10. 50 states svdboeer the holiday
11. He rlaesdee a hit single
12. Six million people signed a npeiiotto
PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a U.S. holiday that celebrates the birth date of one of America’s greatest Americans ever.

2. The holiday recognizes the great achievements Martin Luther King made to American society. His leadership in the campaign for the holiday. He released a hit single called “Happy Birthday” in 1980. The song made

3. the year 2000, all 50 states observed the holiday using its correct name. The musician Stevie Wonder helped

4. the campaign to achieve equal rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus on non-violent

5. protests led to new laws that ended racial discrimination in America. The USA became a more equal

6. how important Martin Luther King was – one of the greatest Americans ever.

7. society. The holiday is only one of four national holidays in America to commemorate a person. This shows just

8. create the holiday. It is still the largest petition in U.S. history in favour of an issue.

9. popular with all American states. Some didn’t like the name and so they called it “Civil Rights Day”. However, in

10. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. Just 15 years later, in 1983, then President Ronald Reagan signed this

11. the campaign to achieve equal rights for black Americans changed America forever. His focus on non-violent

12. civil rights leaders. Dr. King’s date of birth is January 15th, but the actual holiday is on the third Monday in

13. millions of Americans aware of the campaign. Six million people signed a petition for the American Congress to
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. rights one America’s civil leaders of greatest

2. actual on Monday the is third January holiday the in

3. campaign the rights equal achieve to

4. on - protests focus non violent His

5. equal The became more society USA a

6. Dr King assassinated 1968 . was in

7. three holiday the observed first People later years

8. American not states popular the with holiday all was

9. observed holiday its name the using correct

10. million Six petition a signed people
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________________________
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY SURVEY
Write five questions about Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING
Write about Martin Luther King Jr. Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.

   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.