

CIVIL RIGHTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

AND MALCOLM X



COLLABORATIVE LESSON ON THE IDEAS OF BOTH MEN!

**Includes displays for use by students
and a detailed teacher guide!**

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TEACHER GUIDE

This lesson/resource can be used in a variety of ways. The following identifies how the resource could be utilized by the teacher:

1. Firstly, the resource could be used as a review or extension activity after students have already learned about the lives and ideas of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. In this scenario, students should be divided into equal groups, based on the discretion of the teacher, and each group should be provided with the student resources from this package. Students will then go through the included quotes and each group will be responsible for choosing which quotes they believe belong to each of the men. The pictures of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X have been provided such that each group can have them in front of them and be able to use them for the purposes of visually organizing their ideas. To facilitate the lesson, the teacher should move among the groups and ask students to justify their choices. (*Ask: What makes you believe that quote belongs to him?*) The groups should be given ample time to come to their conclusions. The teacher could then lead a class discussion in which groups share their choices and rationale for their choices. This will allow students to understand their own thinking process and the ways in which others came to their conclusions. If a difference of opinion exists among groups, the teacher can facilitate a mini-debate in which students defend their choices by explaining their rationale and links to historical evidence of both men. Eventually the teacher should ensure students understand the correct combination of quotes and reasons to support it. To conclude the activity the teacher could have students debate/discuss whether they agree with the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X. (*Ask: Which Civil Rights leader's ideas do you agree with the most? Explain your reasoning.*)

As an extension, the teacher could remove the titles at the top of the quotes, which tell students the topic of the quote, and have students determine the topic or message of each quote before they begin the process of identifying which man stated each quote.

2. Secondly, the teacher could just provide students with the correct quotes for both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and have students discuss the ideas of the quotes in the sense that the students will need to understand the message of each quote. The teacher could have students break into equal sized groups, and each group could be responsible for summarizing the ideas of each quote in their own words. Then each group could share their summaries to ensure understanding. If a difference of opinion exists among the groups, the teacher can facilitate a mini-debate in which students defend their choices by explaining their rationale and links to historical evidence of both men. To conclude the activity the teacher could have students debate/discuss whether they agree with the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X. (*Ask: Which Civil Rights leader's ideas do you agree with the most? Explain your reasoning.*)

Contents of this resource include:

- Pictures of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
- 6 quotes total with 3 from each of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X

(Each group should be provided with all of the contents of the resource)

***The correct quotes and a brief explanation of each is provided at the end of this package.

CIVIL RIGHTS



CIVIL RIGHTS



ON THE ROLE OF WHITES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Another group with a vital role to play in the present crisis is the white Northern liberals. The racial issue which we confront in America is not a sectional but a national problem. The citizenship rights of Negroes cannot be flouted anywhere without impairing the rights of every American.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere. A breakdown of law in Alabama weakens the very foundations of lawful government in the other 47 states. The mere fact that we live in the United States means that we are caught in a network of inescapable mutuality. Therefore, no American can afford to be apathetic about the problem that meets every man in his front door.

The racial problem will be solved in America to the degree that every American considers himself personally confronted with it. Whether one lives in the heart of the Deep South, or in the North, the problem of injustice is his problem; it is his problem because it is America's problem.

ON THE ROLE OF WHITES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Brothers, the white man can't give you the solution. You will never get the solution from any white liberal. Don't let them come in and tell you what we should do to solve the problem. Those days are over. They can't do it and they won't do it.

That's like asking the fox to help you solve the problem confronting the wolf. He'll give you a solution that will put you right in his clutches and this is what the white liberal does.

Very seldom, you will notice you will find whites who can in any way put up with black nationalists. He just can't stomach it. But he can go along with anything that is integrated, because he knows he can get in there and finagle it, and have you walking backwards thinking you'll be walking forwards.

ON INTEGRATION

I say to you today, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, 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 one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

ON INTEGRATION

[American society] is already divided on racial lines. Go to Harlem. All we're saying now is since we're already divided, the least the government can do is let us control the areas where we live. Let the white people control theirs, let us control ours – that's all we're saying. If the white man can control his, and actually what he is using to control it is white nationalism in the white communities whether they are Jews, whether they are Protestants – they still practice white nationalism. All we're saying to our people is to forget our religious differences. Forget all the differences that have been artificially created by the whites who have been over us, and try to work together in unity and harmony with the philosophy of black nationalism, which only means that we should control our own economy, our own politics, and our own society.

Then, after we control our society, we'll work with any segment of the white community towards building a better civilization.

ON THE USE OF VIOLENCE

It is dangerous to organize a movement around self-defense. The line separating defensive violence and aggressive violence is very thin. The minute a program of violence is enunciated, even for self-defense, the atmosphere is filled with talk of violence, and the words falling on many ears may be interpreted as an invitation for aggression.

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

ON THE USE OF VIOLENCE

Since self-preservation is the first law of nature, we assert the Afro-American's right of self-defense. The Constitution of the United States clearly affirms the right of every American citizen to bear arms, and as Americans we will not give up a single guaranteed right under the Constitution.

The history of violence against our people clearly indicates that we must be prepared to defend ourselves or we will continue to be a defenseless people at the mercy of a ruthless and violent racist mob.

We assert in those areas where the government is either unable or unwilling to protect the lives and property of our people, that our people are within their rights to protect themselves by whatever means necessary.

Tactics based solely on morality can only succeed when you are dealing with basically moral people or a moral system. A man or system which opposes a man because of the color of his skin is not moral.

ON THE ROLE OF WHITES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT *TEACHER KEY*

Another group with a vital role to play in the present crisis is the white Northern liberals. The racial issue which we confront in America is not a sectional but a national problem. The citizenship rights of Negroes cannot be flouted anywhere without impairing the rights of every American.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere. A breakdown of law in Alabama weakens the very foundations of lawful government in the other 47 states. The mere fact that we live in the United States means that we are caught in a network of inescapable mutuality. Therefore, no American can afford to be apathetic about the problem that meets every man in his front door.

The racial problem will be solved in America to the degree that every American considers himself personally confronted with it. Whether one lives in the heart of the Deep South, or in the North, the problem of injustice is his problem; it is his problem because it is America's problem.

Martin Luther King Jr. – The inclusion of white people in solving the issue of segregation is important and the overall Civil Rights movement can serve as an example for all people's rights.

ON THE ROLE OF WHITES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT *TEACHER KEY*

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Malcolm X – The inclusion of white people in solving the issue of segregation is not needed and will be worse for the overall Civil Rights Movement because white people are simply seeking control over African Americans. In fact, white Americans are not interested in helping African Americans.

ON INTEGRATION

TEACHER KEY

I say to you today, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, 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."

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Martin Luther King Jr. – The future of America and the goals of the Civil Rights Movement end in complete integration between whites and African Americans.

ON INTEGRATION

TEACHER KEY

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Then, after we control our society, we'll work with any segment of the white community towards building a better civilization.

Malcolm X – Whites and African Americans should be separate and each allowed to control their own fate. Only then can progress be made towards making progress in the Civil Rights Movement.

ON THE USE OF VIOLENCE

TEACHER KEY

It is dangerous to organize a movement around self-defense. The line separating defensive violence and aggressive violence is very thin. The minute a program of violence is enunciated, even for self-defense, the atmosphere is filled with talk of violence, and the words falling on many ears may be interpreted as an invitation for aggression.

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Martin Luther King Jr. – Violence is not the answer to making gains in relation to the Civil Rights Movement. Violence will only undermine the goals of the Civil Rights Movement and may lead to unnecessary aggression.

ON THE USE OF VIOLENCE

TEACHER KEY

Since self-preservation is the first law of nature, we assert the Afro-American's right of self-defense. The Constitution of the United States clearly affirms the right of every American citizen to bear arms, and as Americans we will not give up a single guaranteed right under the Constitution.

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Tactics based solely on morality can only succeed when you are dealing with basically moral people or a moral system. A man or system which opposes a man because of the color of his skin is not moral.

Malcolm X – African Americans must defend themselves (even if violent) because they are within a system that is inherently immoral and unfair to them. They should use rights protected in the Constitution.