

Luther Martin King Jr. Chart Activity

Directions: complete the attached chart using Martin Luther King Jr.'s childhood information

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Childhood

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to read before he went to school.


Martin had a brother, Alfred, and a sister, Christine.

Young Martin was an excellent student in school; he skipped grades in both elementary school and high school. He enjoyed reading books, singing, riding a bicycle, and playing football and baseball. Martin entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, when he was only 15 years old.

Martin experienced racism early in life. He decided to do something to make the world a better and fairer

Martin Luther King Jr. Quiz

Directions: Complete the attached quiz with the following information.

| | | |
|------|--|---|
| 1929 | Born on January 15, in Atlanta, Georgia |  |
| 1948 | Graduates from Morehouse College | |
| 1953 | Marries Coretta Scott | |
| 1955 | Earns a doctoral degree | |
| 1956 | Dr. King's house is bombed | |
| 1958 | Dr. King publishes his first book, <i>Stride Toward Freedom</i> | |
| 1963 | Dr. King gives his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. | |
| 1964 | Dr. King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize | |
| 1968 | Dr. King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee | |
| 1986 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day is declared a national holiday in the U.S. | |

Directions:
Answer the yes or no questions
about Martin Luther King, Jr.

| Color in the correct circle. | YES | NO |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in 1929. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. King was born in Mississippi. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. King was married in 1942. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Dr. King published his first book in 1958. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Dr. King won the Nobel Prize in 1965. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was declared a national holiday in 1966. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



Directions: Circle the correct answer



8. Where did Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech?

- a. At Ebenezer Baptist Church
- b. In front of the Atlanta City Hall
- c. At the Lincoln Memorial
- d. At the Nobel Prize ceremony

9. What year was the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday first observed?

- a. 1969
- b. 1973
- c. 1980
- d. 1986

Martin Luther King Jr. Fill-in

Name _____

Date _____

Directions:

Fill in the blanks using the word bank.



Word Bank:

Atlanta father read boycott college Nobel civil rights
assassinated January Ministers student Alabama Tennessee
born African-Americans

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a great man who worked for racial equality and _____ in the USA. He was _____ on January 15, 1929, in _____, Georgia. Both his _____ and grandfather were _____. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to _____ before he went to school. Young Martin was an excellent _____ in school.

After graduating from _____ and getting married, Dr. King became a minister and moved to _____.

During the 1950's, Dr. King became active in the movement for civil rights. He participated in the Montgomery, Alabama, bus _____ and many other peaceful demonstrations that protested the unfair treatment of _____.

He won the _____ Peace Prize in 1964.

Dr. King was _____ on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, _____.

Commemorating the life of a tremendously important leader, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day each year in _____, the month of his birth.

Source: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/MLK/timeline.shtml>

A Time to Reap for Foot Soldiers of Civil Rights

ALBANY, Ga. — Rutha Mae Harris backed her silver Town Car out of the driveway early Tuesday morning, pointed it toward her polling place on Mercer Avenue and started to sing.

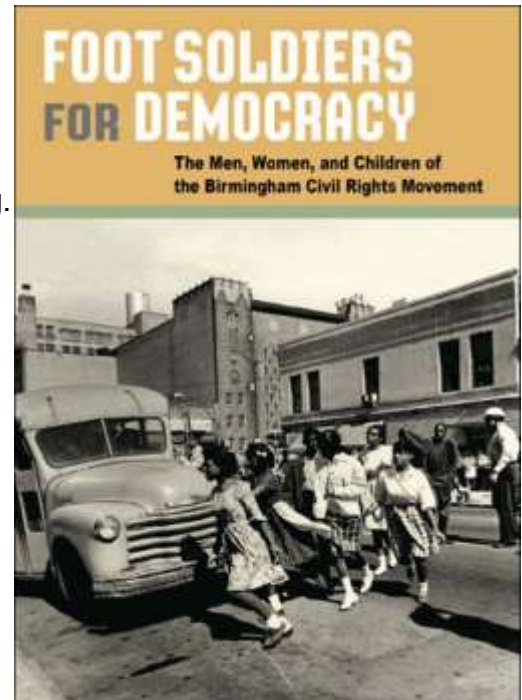
*“I’m going to vote like the spirit say vote,”
Miss Harris chanted softly.*

I’m going to vote like the spirit say vote,

I’m going to vote like the spirit say vote,

And if the spirit say vote I’m going to vote,

Oh Lord, I’m going to vote when the spirit say vote.



As a 21-year-old student (on right in photo), she had bellowed that same freedom song at mass meetings at Mount Zion Baptist Church back in 1961, the year Barack Obama was born in Hawaii, a universe away. She sang it again while marching on Albany’s City Hall, where she and other black students demanded the right to vote, and in the cramped and filthy cells of the city jail, which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described as the worst he ever inhabited.

For those like Miss Harris who withstood jailings and beatings and threats to their livelihoods, all because they wanted to vote, the short drive to the polls on Tuesday culminated a lifelong journey from a time that is at once unrecognizable and eerily familiar here in southwest Georgia. As they exited the voting booths, some in wheelchairs, others with canes, these foot soldiers of the civil rights movement could not suppress either their jubilation or their astonishment at having voted for an African-American for president of the United States.

“They didn’t give us our mule and our acre, but things are better,” Miss Harris, 67, said with a gratified smile. “It’s time to reap some of the harvest.”

When Miss Harris arrived at the city gymnasium where she votes, her 80-year-old friend Mamie L. Nelson greeted her with a hug. "We marched, we sang and now it's happening," Ms. Nelson said. "It's really a feeling I cannot describe."

Many, like the Rev. Horace C. Boyd, who was then and is now pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, viewed the moment through the prism of biblical prophecy. If Dr. King was the movement's Moses, doomed to die without crossing the Jordan, it would fall to Mr. Obama to be its Joshua, they said.

"King made the statement that he viewed the Promised Land, won't get there, but somebody will get there, and that day has dawned," said Mr. Boyd, 81, who pushed his wife in a wheelchair to the polls late Tuesday morning. "I'm glad that it has."

It was a day most never imagined that they would live to see. From their vantage point amid the cotton fields and pecan groves of Dougherty County, where the movement for voting rights faced some of its most determined resistance, the country simply did not seem ready.

Yes, the world had changed in 47 years. At City Hall, the offices once occupied by the segregationist mayor, Asa D. Kelley Jr., and the police chief, Laurie Pritchett, are now filled by Mayor Willie Adams and Chief James Younger, both of whom are black. But much in this black-majority city of 75,000 also seems the same: neighborhoods remain starkly delineated by race, blacks are still five times more likely than whites to live in poverty and the public schools have so resegregated that 9 of every 10 students are black.

Miss Harris, a retired special education teacher who was jailed three times in 1961 and 1962, was so convinced that Mr. Obama could not win white support that she backed Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in the primaries. "I just didn't feel it was time for a black man, to be honest," she said. "But the Lord has revealed to me that it is time for a change."

Late Tuesday night, when the networks declared Mr. Obama the winner, Miss Harris could not hold back the tears, the emotions of a lifetime released in a flood. She shared a lengthy embrace with friends gathered at the Obama headquarters, and then led the exultant crowd in song.

"Glory, glory, hallelujah," she sang. After a prayer, she joined the crowd in chanting, "Yes, we did!"

Among the things Miss Harris appreciates about Mr. Obama is that even though he was in diapers while she was in jail, he seems to respect what came before. "He's of a different time and place, but he knows whose shoulders he's standing on," she said.

When the movement came to Albany in 1961, fewer than 100 of Dougherty County's 20,000 black residents were registered to vote, said the Rev. Charles M. Sherrod, one

of the first field workers sent here by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Literacy tests made a mockery of due process — Mr. Boyd remembers being asked by a registrar how many bubbles were in a bar of soap — and bosses made it clear to black workers that registration might be incompatible with continued employment.

Lucius Holloway Sr., 76, said he lost his job as a post office custodian after he began registering voters in neighboring Terrell County. He said he was shunned by other blacks who hated him for the trouble he incited.

Now Mr. Holloway is a member of the county commission, and when he voted for Mr. Obama last week he said his pride was overwhelming. “Thank you, Jesus, I lived to see the fruit of my labor,” he said.

The Albany movement spread with frenzied abandon after the arrival of Mr. Sherrod and other voting-rights organizers, and Dr. King devoted nearly a year to the effort. The protests became known for the exuberant songs that Miss Harris and others adapted from Negro spirituals. (She would go on to become one of the Freedom Singers, a group that traveled the country as heralds for the civil rights movement.) In the jails, the music helped wile away time and soothe the soul, just as they had in the fields a century before.

But the movement met its match in Albany’s recalcitrant white leaders, who filled the jails with demonstrators while avoiding the kind of violence that drew media outrage and federal intervention in other civil rights battlegrounds. The energy gradually drained from the protests, and Dr. King moved on to Birmingham, counting Albany as a tactical failure.

Mr. Sherrod, 71, who settled in Albany and continues to lead a civil rights group here, argues that the movement succeeded; it simply took time. He said he felt the weight of that history when he voted last Thursday morning, after receiving radiation treatment for his prostate cancer. He thought of the hundreds of mass meetings, of the songs of hope and the sermons of deliverance. “This is what we prayed for, this is what we worked for,” he said. “We have a legitimate chance to be a democracy.”

Over and again, the civil rights veterans drew direct lines between their work and the colorblindness of Mr. Obama’s candidacy. But they emphasized that they did not vote for him simply because of his race.

“I think he would make just as good a president as any one of those whites ever made, that’s what I think about it,” said 103-year-old Daisy Newsome, who knocked on doors to register voters “until my hand was sore,” and was jailed in 1961 during a march that started at Mount Zion Baptist. “It ain’t because he’s black, because I’ve voted for the whites.” She added, “I know he can’t be no worse than what there’s done been.”

Mount Zion has now been preserved as a landmark, attached to a new \$4 million civil rights museum that was financed through a voter-approved sales tax increase. Across

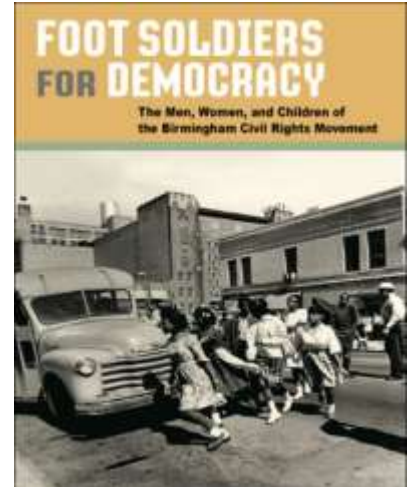
the street, Shiloh Baptist, founded in 1888, still holds services in the sanctuary where Dr. King preached at mass meetings.

Among those leading Sunday's worship was the associate pastor, Henry L. Mathis, 53, a former city commissioner whose grandmother was a movement stalwart. He could not let the moment pass without looking back.

"We are standing on Jordan's stony banks, and we're casting a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land," Mr. Mathis preached. "We sang through the years that we shall overcome, but our Father, our God, we pray now that you show that we have overcome."

A Time to Reap for Foot Soldiers of Civil Rights

Questions



- a. To what does the phrase "our mule and our acre" refer?
- b. What is a foot soldier? What does the use of this word in the headline suggest about the civil rights movement?
- c. In Albany, Georgia, what has changed in 47 years? What has stayed the same?
- d. Why did many of the civil rights foot soldiers never think this day would come?
- e. Why did Miss Harris support Hillary Clinton in the primary?
- f. What does Mr. Sherrod mean when he says "We have a legitimate chance to be a democracy"?
- g. Following Obama's election, does a need for civil rights groups, like the one led by Mr. Sherrod, remain or are we now living in a "post-racial" world?
- h. What does the election of an African-American to the office of president mean to these people?

Three-Way Match: Famous Black Americans Lesson Plan

Grades: Elementary and Secondary

Learn about the accomplishments of famous African American men and women using a unique three-way matching activity. (Grades 4-12)

Objectives

Students will utilize an online resource (Encyclopedia Britannica's Black History Month Biographies) to learn about famous African Americans.

Materials

- Famous African American Women and/or Famous African American Men handouts
- computers

Lesson Plan

In this activity students will match famous African American men and women to their accomplishments and to the year in which those accomplishments occurred. Students will use the online resources of Encyclopedia Britannica's Black History Biographies (select **Biographies** from the menu) to complete the activity.

- Teachers will advise students that, this activity is slightly different from the typical two-column matching activity with which students are familiar. Students will complete a three-way matching activity handout.
- Students will be directed to draw a line in from the person's name in the left column to that person's accomplishment (in the middle column);
- Students will then draw a line from the accomplishment in the middle column to the year in which that accomplishment occurred in the far-right (third) column.

*Note: One page focuses on famous African American women and the other highlights the accomplishments of African American men. You might have the boys research the men and the girls research the women, or vice versa; or you might give students a choice or have them do both activities.

[Famous African American Women](#)
[Famous African American Men](#)



Famous African American Women

Name _____

Use the Encyclopedia Britannica's Guide to Black History at <http://www.britannica.com/blackhistory> to help you identify each woman listed below. Then do the 3-way match. First draw a line from the woman's name to her accomplishment. Then draw a line from her accomplishment to the year in which it occurred.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------|
| 1. Gwendolyn Brooks | a. First African American woman to serve in a president's cabinet, in... | 1833 |
| 2. Johnnetta Cole | b. Her first of many blues recordings, "Downhearted Blues," was made in... | 1896 |
| 3. Bessie Coleman | c. First African-American poet to win a Pulitzer Prize, in... | 1922 |
| 4. Prudence Crandall | d. Known as the "Queen of Gospel," she performed at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in... | 1923 |
| 5. Lorraine Hansberry | e. First president of a new organization, the National Association of Colored Women, in... | 1949 |
| 6. Roberta Harris | f. Famous as the author of <i>The Color Purple</i> , which was published in... | 1959 |
| 7. Mahalia Jackson | g. Became the first woman president of Spelman College, in... | 1961 |
| 8. Bessie Smith | h. She opened a school to educate "young ladies of color" in... | 1977 |
| 9. Mary Terrell | i. First African-American stunt pilot to stage a public flight, in... | 1982 |
| 10. Alice Walker | j. Her play, <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> , was the first drama by an African American woman to be staged on Broadway, in... | 1987 |



Famous African American Men

Name _____

Use the *Encyclopedia Britannica's Guide to Black History* at <http://www.britannica.com/blackhistory> to help you identify each man listed below. Then do the 3-way match. First draw a line from the man's name to his accomplishment. Then draw a line from his accomplishment to the year in which it occurred.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------|
| 1. Ralph Abernathy | a. A brilliant mathematician and inventor, he predicted a solar eclipse in | 1789 |
| 2. Benjamin Banneker | b. First African American citizen elected to the U.S. Senate, in... | 1870 |
| 3. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. | c. Known as the "father of black baseball," he founded the Negro National League in... | 1920 |
| 4. Rube Foster | d. First African American to serve as mayor of a large city, Cleveland, in... | 1921 |
| 5. Rafer Johnson | e. Riots resulted when he became the first African American student at the University of Mississippi in... | 1925 |
| 6. James Meredith | f. First black athlete to carry the American flag in the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games, in... | 1955 |
| 7. Fritz Pollard | g. Played Joe and sang "Ol' Man River" in the play <i>Show Boat</i> in... | 1960 |
| 8. Hiram Revels | h. First African-American astronaut to be launched into space, in... | 1962 |
| 9. Paul Robeson | i. Son of a farmer, he helped Martin Luther King organize Montgomery's bus boycott in... | 1967 |
| 10. Carl Stokes | j. First African American head coach in the National Football League (NFL), in... | 1983 |

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Directions: Answer the following questions utilizing the attached MLK National Memorial fact sheet

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



1. Name the city and location of the building site for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial?
2. What is the historical significance of the site location that has been chosen to build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial?
3. What famous speech did Martin Luther King Jr. deliver from this historic site?
4. The approved site creates a visual "line of leadership" from which memorials?
5. In December 1999, an international design competition to create the memorial attracted more than 1,900 registrants from 52 countries, what architect group submitted the winning design?
6. To date, 100 million has been donated, what is the total cost to build the Martin Luther king Jr. Memorial?
7. What president signed a joint Congressional Resolution authorizing the building of the Martin Luther King, Jr. King Memorial?
8. Explain in your own words, how the building of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial preserve the memory and spiritual presence of Dr. King?

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL

FACT SHEET

HISTORY

On September 28, 1996 the U.S. House of Representatives passed Joint Resolution 70 authorizing Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to establish a memorial in Washington, DC to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Senate followed by passing Joint Resolution 426 on October 3, 1996, and on July 16, 1998, President Clinton signed a Joint Congressional Resolution authorizing the building of a memorial.

LOCATION

Situated on a four-acre site along the Tidal Basin, the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial will be adjacent to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial and on a direct line between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

DESIGN

In December 1999, the Foundation formed a panel of international architects and designers to develop and coordinate the program of requirements for the Memorial. The design competition attracted more than 1,900 registrants from 52 countries. More than 900 submissions were received from architects, landscape architects, students, sculptors, and professors. In September 2000, the winning design of the ROMA Group of San Francisco was selected. The partnership of Devroux & Purnell/ROMA Design Group Joint Venture was named Architect of Record in February, 2004.

VISION

The Memorial will evoke the memory and spiritual presence of Dr. King. It will honor not only a great man, but the values that empowered his leadership, including courage and truth, unconditional love and forgiveness, justice and equality, reconciliation and peace.

COST

The groundbreaking is contingent upon the Foundation's "Build the Dream" campaign raising the estimated \$120 million required to build the Memorial.

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

The Foundation is chaired by Global Group Vice President, General Motors Corporation Gary Cowger; former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, and in memory of Coretta Scott King. The Executive Leadership Cabinet (ELC) is comprised of the following members:

David Bell, Operating Advisor, Pegasus Capital Advisors; Philippe P. Dauman, President and CEO, VIACOM; Suzanne de Passe, Chair and CEO, de Passe Entertainment; George Foreman, CEO, Foreman, Inc.; Dr. Robert M. Franklin, President, Morehouse College; Earl G. Graves, Chairman and CEO, Black Enterprise Magazine; William H. Gray, III, Chairman, The Amani Group; H. Edward Hanway, Chairman and CEO, CIGNA Corporation; The Honorable Alexis M. Herman, 23rd U.S. Secretary of Labor & Chair and CEO, New Ventures, Inc.; Thomas J. Hilfiger, Principal Designer, Tommy Hilfiger USA; Joel Horowitz, Co-Founder, Tommy Hilfiger Corporation; Chad A. Jester, President, Nationwide Foundation; Sheila C. Johnson- Newman, CEO, Salamander Hospitality, LLC.; Vernon Jordan, Esq., Senior Managing Director, Lazard Freres & Company, LLC; The Honorable Jack Kemp, Founder and Chairman, Kemp Partners; Victor B. MacFarlane, Managing Principal, MacFarlane Partners; J.W. Marriott, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Marriott International, Inc.; Emilio Pardo, Chief Brand Officer, AARP; Dr. William F. Pickard, Chairman and CEO, Vitec, LLC; General Colin L. Powell, USA (Retired); Franklin D. Raines, Director, Revolution Health Group; Henry Schleiff, President and CEO, The Hallmark Channel; Ivan G. Seidenberg, Chairman and CEO, VERIZON Communications; Russell Simmons, Chairman and CEO, Rush Communications; Daniel Snyder, Owner, NFL Washington, Redskins; David Stern, Commissioner, National Basketball Association; Dale A. Stinton, Executive Vice President and CEO, National Association of Realtors; in memory of Jack Valenti, Former Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association; J.C. Watts, Jr., President and CEO, J.C. Watts Companies; and Dr. Robert L. Wright, Chairman, Flight Explorer.

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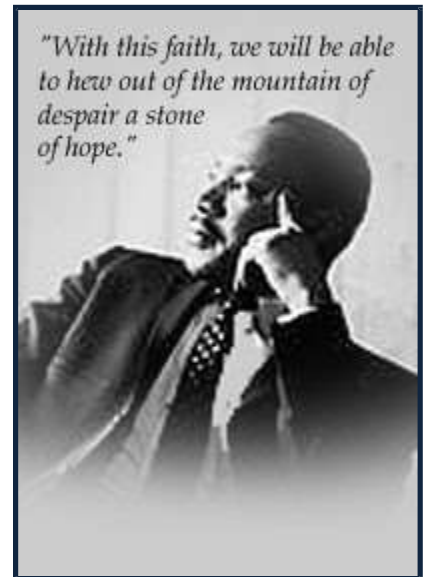
President George H. W. Bush; President Jimmy Carter; President Bill Clinton; Nancy Reagan (representing President Ronald Reagan); and in memory of Lady Bird Johnson (representing President Lyndon B. Johnson).

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Congressional Committee, which is still in formation, currently consists of 250 Members of Congress. To review the list, visit www.buildthedream.org

DREAM TEAM

Laila Ali, Muhammad Ali, Dr. Maya Angelou, Clarence Avant, Angela Bassett, Richard Brooks, Chris Brown, Roger Aaron Brown, Tommy Davidson, Suzanne Douglas, Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds, Tracey Edmonds, Laurence Fishburne, Antwone Fisher, Harrison Ford, George Foreman, Vivica A. Fox, Morgan Freeman, Whoopi Goldberg, Dennis Haysbert, Dule Hill, Dustin Hoffman, Ernie Hudson, Samuel L. Jackson, Anne Marie Johnson, Patti La Belle, Walt “Baby” Love-Shaw, Peter Max, Holly Robinson Peete and Rodney Peete, Joseph C. Phillips, Paul Pierce, James Reynolds, Lionel Ritchie, Al Roker, Victoria Rowell, Deborah and Carlos Santana, Oz Scott, Martin Sheen, Elisabeth Shue, Andrew Shue, Tavis Smiley, Jerry Stackhouse, Sean Patrick Thomas, Lorraine Touissant, Dr. Debbie Turner, Dionne Warwick, Chris Webber and Brad Whitford.



Source: <http://www.nps.gov/mlkm/index.htm>

About the Memorial

Dr. King's Memorial site is a four-acre plot on the north east corner of the Tidal Basin within the precinct of the Jefferson Memorial and north of the memorial to President Roosevelt.



Winning Memorial Design.

The approved site creates a visual "line of leadership" from the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, to the Jefferson Memorial.