



## Warm up

- 1 Look at the photos of these three famous leaders who fought for equal rights. What do you know about them?

## Reading comprehension

- 2 Read about the three civil rights leaders and then answer the questions.

### Gandhi

Mohandas Gandhi was born in India in 1869, but spent a long period of his life in South Africa. There he saw how Indian people were treated very badly. He decided to do something to improve the Indians' situation. He created *Satyagraha*, the concept of using non-violent methods of protest to fight against injustice and became the leader of the Indian community in South Africa. After 20 years in South Africa, he decided to return to India. Here, he spent his time fighting for Indian independence from British rule and trying to improve the lives of India's poor. In 1947 India became an independent country. In 1948 he was assassinated by a Hindu nationalist. His non-violent methods of protest inspired many other civil rights and freedom protests in the world.

- 1 What did Gandhi see in South Africa?
- 2 What is *Satyagraha*?
- 3 What did he do when he returned to India?
- 4 What happened in 1947?



### Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. He was leader of the African-American Civil Rights movement. He fought for equal rights for blacks. He was responsible for ending segregation laws. In 1959 he visited Gandhi's place of birth in India and was inspired by Gandhi's non-violent methods of protest. In 1963 he led a peaceful march for civil rights to Washington where he spoke to the nation. His non-violent protests were successful and the American congress passed civil rights laws in 1964 and the right to vote for blacks in 1965. His friendship with President John F Kennedy also helped his cause. In 1964 he became the youngest person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for his work against racial segregation and discrimination. He was assassinated on April 4<sup>th</sup> 1968 in Memphis. In 1986 Martin Luther King Day became a US federal holiday.

- 5 Who was Martin Luther King?
- 6 Who inspired him?
- 7 What did he do in 1963?
- 8 Who was he friends with?

## Nelson Mandela

He was born in Transkei, South Africa, in 1918. Mandela was President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Before becoming President he was an anti-apartheid leader – that means he fought against the racial segregation that existed in South Africa between blacks and whites. In 1962 he was arrested and put in prison for 27 years. During his time in prison his reputation grew. People knew him as the most significant black leader in South Africa. Many people around the world protested because he was in prison and they used the slogan *Free Nelson Mandela*. Finally, in 1990, he was released. He became the leader of the *African National Congress* (ANC) and negotiated with the South African government for more rights for the black population. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 1994 South Africa's first multi-racial elections took place and Mandela became the country's first black President.

- 9 What happened to Mandela in 1962?
- 10 What happened in 1990?
- 11 What did he do as leader of the ANC?
- 12 What happened in 1994?

## Fill the gaps

**3** Martin Luther King made a lot of important speeches and one of the most famous is *I have a dream*. Can you complete it with the missing words?

content tranquillity happy dream greatest struggle  
end will discipline day rights colour

I am (1) ..... to join with you today in what will go down in history as  
the (2) ..... demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.  
... Nineteen sixty-three is not an (3) ....., but a beginning.  
... There (4) ..... be neither rest nor (5) *tranquillity*.. in America until  
the Negro is granted his citizenship (6) .....  
... We must forever conduct our (7) ..... on the high plane of dignity  
and (8) *discipline*...  
... I have a dream that my four children will one (9) ..... live in a nation  
where they will not be judged by the (10) ..... of their skin but by the  
(11) *content*... of their character.  
... I have a (12) ..... today!

