**Grade: Kindergarten**

**Key Concept 6:**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, and Black History Month Lesson**

**Overview:** This lesson is going to highlight Martin Luther King Jr.’s fight for diversity and fairness during the Civil Rights Movement. The hook of the lesson shows students firsthand how it looks and feels to be excluded against, leading into a class conversation about equal treatment and Dr. King’s quest for civil rights. The lesson continues into a read aloud of *Martin’s Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport and concludes with a class book.

**For the Teacher:** This lesson is flexible and can be broken up into multiple days, depending on your schedule.

**Materials:**

Book*: Martin’s Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport

Copies: “I Have a Dream” class book (see below)

Supplies: Whiteboard/chart paper

Optional:

* Brown egg, white egg
* Bowl
* Read Aloud of *Martin’s Big Words* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc39Ka8ut6k&index=6&list=PLVF9XZR_PU3rBUT-BNwkoXsUhkXAxdG6I>

**Objectives:**

C.3.K.2 Discuss ways people improve communities

H.12.K.4 Recognize historic figures and other people that have made an impact on history

H.12.K.5 Identify the purpose of the national holidays and describe the people or events celebrated

H.13.K.1 Discuss a historical topics from different points of view

H.13.K.3 Describe ways people learn about the past

**Instructions:**

1. Teacher will wear a specific colored shirt for the day. Tell the class that your shirt color is your favorite color and anyone else wearing that shirt will get a special treat today. If they are wearing your color shirt, tell them they have 5 minutes of indoor play time, while the rest of the class continues to work or watch.
2. After about 5 minutes, gather your class back to your meeting spot and discuss with the class how the children felt, some getting to play and some not. This discussion will help reinforce the main idea of Dr. King’s fight for equality.
3. Next, introduce today’s lesson about Martin Luther King, Jr—highlighting inequality, fairness, and why we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.
4. Read *Martin’s Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport. (You may want to do a picture walk with the book before, depending on how fluent your students are and what strategies you teach in class.)
5. After reading *Martin’s Big Words,* have a class discussion about how Martin believed that skin color does not define people, their actions and behaviors do.
   * Extension: Bring in one brown egg and one white egg. Ask students what is different about each egg. After discussing that the outside colors are different, crack both eggs open into the bowl. This will lead to a discussion about how although the eggs look different on the outside, their content on the inside is the same and one is not better than another.
6. To conclude your reading and check for understanding, create a web graphic organizer on your white board and chart paper with Martin Luther King Jr.’s name in the middle. Have students share things they learned about MLK Jr. as you record their responses.
7. Last, create a class book about each student’s dream to change the world. The print out for the class book is available below. Bind the responses or put them in a folder for students to refer to for the rest of the year.

We adapted a piece of this lesson from Kindergarten Kids at Play—check them out, they provide great lesson ideas! <http://kindergartenkidsatplay.blogspot.com/>

Our Big Dreams

By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have a dream that…

