Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement
American life before the Civil Rights Movement

- Separate water fountains for whites and blacks.
- “Colored” balconies in movie theaters.
- Seats in the back of the bus.
- Separate schools for whites, Blacks, Indians, Chinese, and other immigrants in many places.
- Voting restrictions for all “Non-Whites” in some parts of the country.

This was American life less than 40 years ago.
Stereotypes, Discrimination, and Segregation

All immigrant groups have experienced discrimination when coming to the U.S.

In the 1800’s Irish, Italian, and Jewish immigrants were not considered “White.” They built their own Catholic and Hebrew schools.
Chinese immigrants circa 1900

Chinese school in New York, 1800’s
Native American boys at Indian Boarding School

Native American girls at Indian Boarding School.
African-American high school, Montgomery, Alabama in early 1900’s
Martin Luther King’s Early Life

- MLK was born on January 15, 1929.
- He was only 19 when he graduated from Morehouse College in 1948.

He graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 1951.
- In 1954 he moved to Montgomery Alabama to become a pastor.
- 1955 he completed a Ph.D. in theology at various New England colleges.
MLK meets the Civil Rights Movement

- In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in public schools.
- In 1955, MLK and other Civil Rights Leaders helped Rosa Parks begin the Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott lasted a year. Afterwards busses were desegregated.
- MLK was arrested.
- In 1959 MLK visits India and meets his hero Ghandi.
MLK met with President Eisenhower in 1958 to discuss Civil Rights. He also met with President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Police use dogs to quell civil unrest in Birmingham, Ala., in May 1963.
The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. acknowledges the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech during a march on Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963. About 250,000 people attended.

King looks at the glass door of his rented beach cottage in Florida that was shot into on June 5, 1964. No one was in the house at the time. This is the same year he won the Nobel Peace Prize and met the Pope.

King was struck by a rock as he led 600 demonstrators through Chicago's southwest side. Aug. 6, 1966.
Hosea Williams (left), Jesse Jackson, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph David Abernathy on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel Memphis hotel, a day before King's assassination. April 3, 1968.

King's funeral procession through the streets of Atlanta drew this huge crowd of mourners. April 9, 1968.
How has MLK and the Civil Rights Movement changed America?