

THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

 Nobel Prize Lessons

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THEME: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



Growing up in the south

Due to segregation laws in the American South, African Americans and whites were not allowed to use the same drinking fountain.

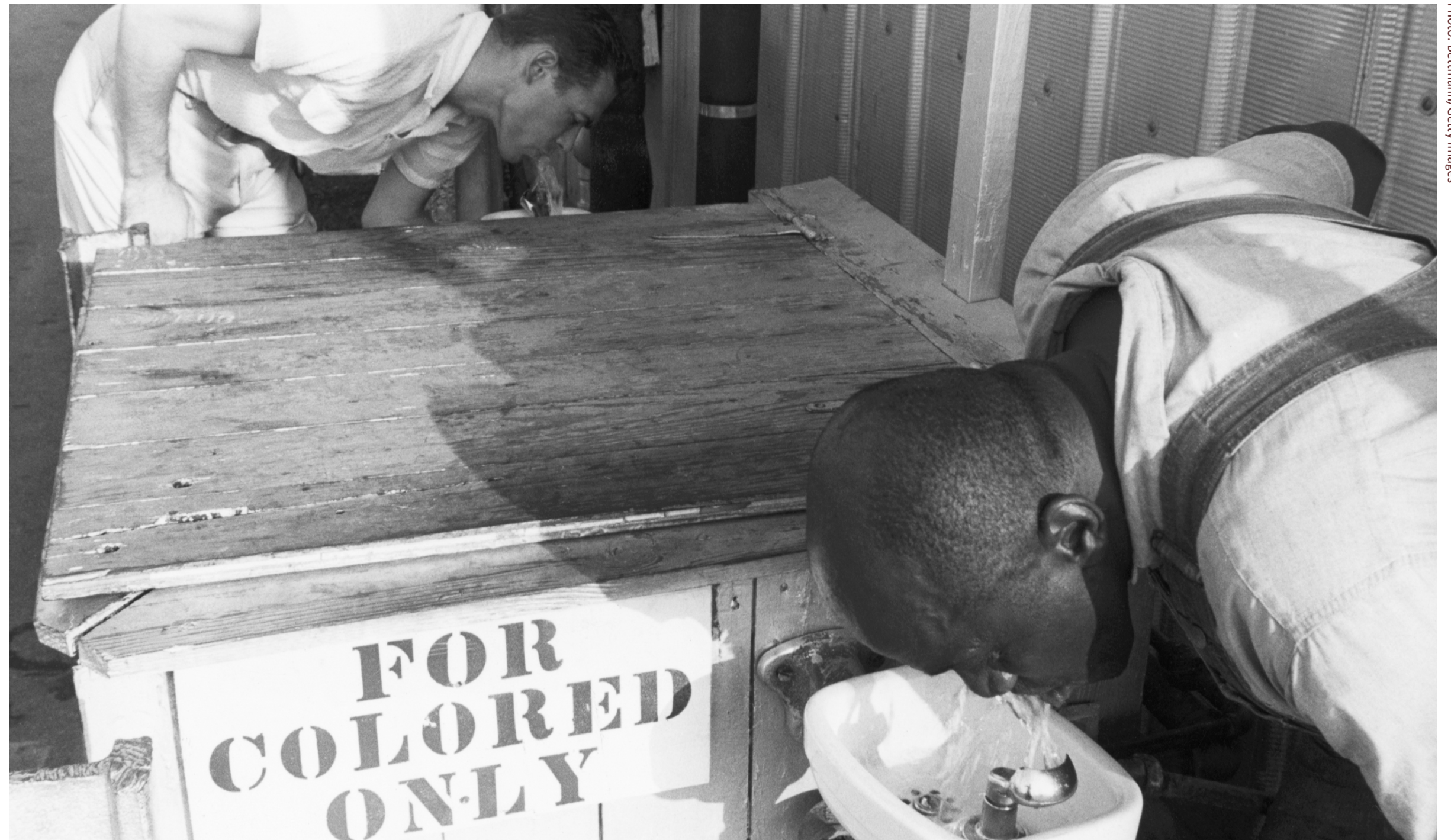


Photo: Bettmann/Getty Images

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. when he was six years old. This was around the time he experienced racism for the first time, when his best friend – a white boy – was ordered by his father to stop playing with Martin because he was black.

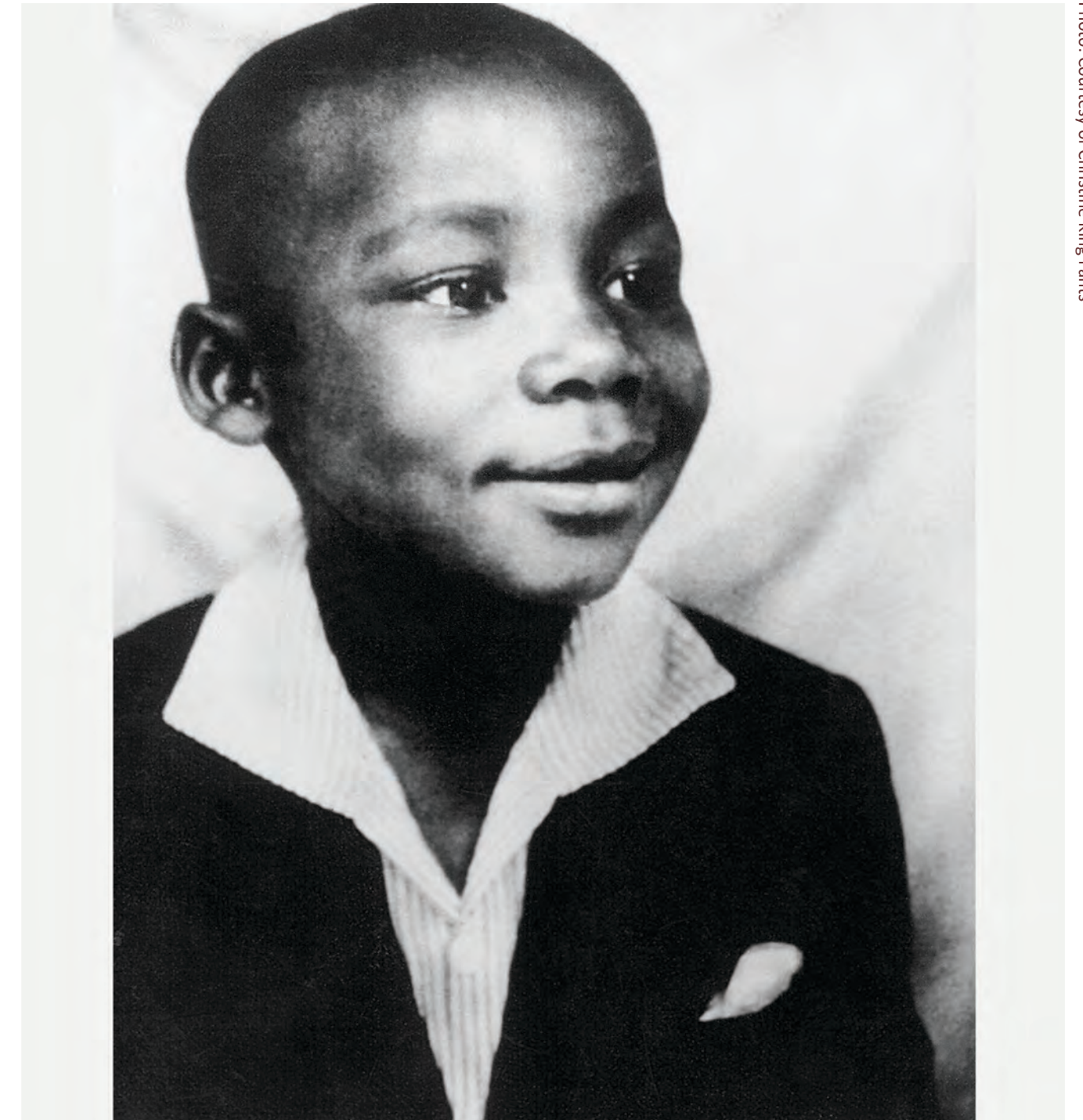


Photo: Courtesy of Christine King Fants

Discussion questions

“Growing up in the south”

1. What picture does the video give of what it was like to grow up in the American South?
2. How do you think a person is affected by growing up in a society like the one that the video describes?

Watch the video “Growing Up in the South”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh_MjltgcuQ&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8lZ&index=2

Stride toward freedom

As the newly elected leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, King presented strategies to his fellow members. Rosa Parks is sitting in the front row.



Discussion questions

“Stride toward freedom”

1. The civil rights movement’s demands for reform faced great opposition. Why do you believe there was such great opposition to change in the US during this period?
2. Why do you believe that the civil rights movement achieved successes during the 1950s, despite great opposition?

Watch the video “Stride toward freedom”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qSgCISyDM4&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8IZ&index=2>

Why we can't wait

“The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom” that took place in the US capital of Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, was the largest civil rights demonstration of its period.



Discussion questions

“Why we can’t wait”

1. Why do you believe it was so important to Martin Luther King Jr. that the struggle for justice was pursued using nonviolent methods?
2. How do you believe that the two laws that prohibited segregation and racial discrimination in voting changed the lives of African Americans?

Watch the video “Why we can’t wait”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bi0yr4s6YeM&index=3&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8IZ>

The Nobel Prize

Martin Luther King Jr. receives his Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent campaign against racism in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, 1964.



Discussion questions

“The Nobel journey”

1. Why do you believe it was so important to Martin Luther King Jr. that the struggle for justice was pursued using nonviolent methods?
2. How do you believe that the two laws that prohibited segregation and racial discrimination in voting changed the lives of African Americans?

Watch the video “The Nobel journey”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjVEuzb4irU&index=4&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8IZ>

Time to break silence

About 400,000 demonstrators marching to protest the Vietnam War outside United Nations headquarters in New York on April 15, 1967.



Photo: AFP/TT

Discussion questions

“Time to break silence”

1. Why did Martin Luther King Jr. publicly oppose the Vietnam War?
2. The Black Power movement questioned nonviolent methods. Why? How do you believe the Black Power movement affected the struggle against racism in the US?

Watch the video “Time to break silence”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjvHtr3jXI4&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8IZ&index=5>

Reaching the mountaintop

In May 1968, a month after the assassination of King, a participant in the Poor People's Campaign demonstration in Washington, D.C. held up a placard with the text: "Dr. King died for the poor people". The struggle to bring economic justice to poor people turned out to be King's last battle.



Discussion questions

“Reaching the mountaintop”

1. What issues engaged Martin Luther King Jr. at the end of his life?
2. How can people living today be inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. and his struggle?

Watch the video “Reaching the mountaintop”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR24T5ePmXY&index=6&list=PLJE9rmV1-0uAk8ex7JratUR5GX-LGP8IZ>

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FOR THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO
HUMANKIND

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