

There is no turning back. We are winning because ours is a revolution of the mind and the heart.



Let freedom reign. The sun never set on so glorious a human achievement.

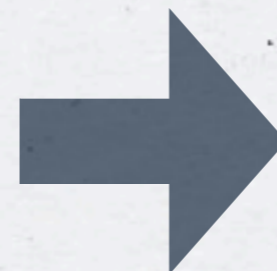
TAKING A STAND FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Famous Men who Fought for Human Rights



Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Click the arrow to start your journey to find out who said these inspiring words.



All of these men have made headlines! Click on their picture to find out more about their lives and why they made headlines. As you are reading about their lives think about something you would want to stand up for.



Peaceful Protests



Wrongfully Imprisoned



Murals of Remembrance

When you are finished learning about these men click on the star.

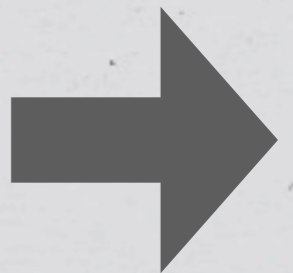


MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. Growing up in the Southern part of the United States he saw lots of segregation between whites and blacks.

Martin attended religious colleges in Philadelphia and Boston where he was inspired by the northern liberal views of race, which was very different from where he grew up. He inspired by Gandhi and his peaceful nonviolent protests.

After college he became a pastor and community leader. He used his life experiences help shapes our lives today.



“I HAVE A DREAM” SPEECH

Martin Luther King Jr. helped numerous causes to provide equal rights to all people regardless of the color of their skin. He helped organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott where people boycotted riding the for 381 days .

In 1963 there was a famous March to Washington and over 250,000 people attended to show their support for the Civil Rights Movement. One of the speakers was King who delivered a speech known as “I Have a Dream”

which became what he is well-known for. It was sixteen minutes long but here is a highlight of his speech. *Click the picture to see a video clip of his speech highlights.*

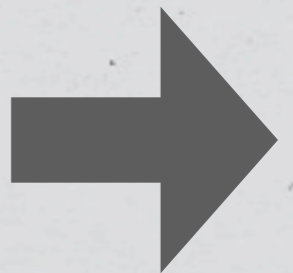


AFTER TAKING A STAND...

In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Other awards included the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964 allowing equal rights to all people regardless of race.



On April 4, 1968 Martin was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Many people mourned his death. Many memorials are built to remember the great things he has done. King has over 730 streets named after him. Today we honor him by celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15.



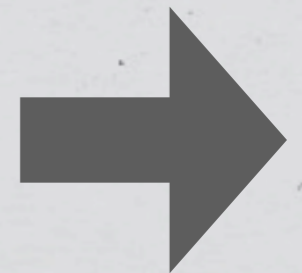
CESAR CHAVEZ

Cesar Chavez saw the need to take a stand in the farm fields. He was born on March 31, 1927 in Yuma, Arizona.

The Great Depression caused Cesar's family to move to California to become migrant workers. The conditions Cesar's family and others had to face were terrible.

As he thought of something he could do to help the migrant workers he thought of the impact made by Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. He wanted to make a stand in a peaceful manner.

He was honored for his important contributions by having a US Stamp commemorating his achievements. *Click the link to find out more.*



GRAPE WORKERS MARCH

After working for ten years helping people register to vote and work for equal rights he decided to found a union called the Farm Workers Association in 1962.

The first act Chavez did was to strike against the grape growers. Chavez and sixty-seven people started a march 340 from Delano, CA to Sacramento, CA.

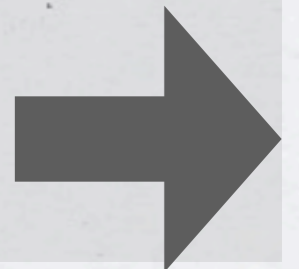
As they marched others joined the cause until the crowd grew into the thousands. At the end of the strike the grape growers agreed to improve the conditions of the farmers and sign a contract with the union.



AFTER TAKING A STAND...

The Grape Workers March was the start of several other strikes over the next few decades to help improve the conditions of the workers. Cesar also fasted to help bring attention of the need for better conditions of the migrant workers. In 1988, he fasted for 36 days to raise awareness of the health hazards faced in the fields.

Chavez died on April 23, 1993. After his death he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. In 2000, California made March 31 a state holiday to honor his achievements.

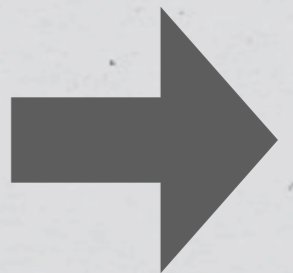


NELSON MANDELA

July 18 is a day of service in the country of South Africa. July 18 is also the birthday of Nelson Mandela, a man who fought for the equality of all people in South Africa.

Mandela was born in 1918 and as he grew up he saw lots of segregation between the whites and blacks of South Africa.

Mandela became the leader of the African National Congress where he worked hard to influence others to follow the peaceful, non-violent protests of Gandhi.

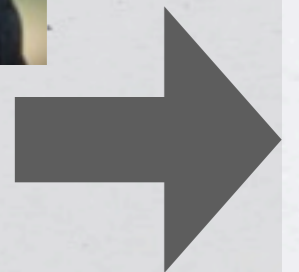


27 YEARS SPENT IN PRISON

Mandela traveled throughout South Africa encouraging others to have peaceful protests against the laws that made people segregated. The government felt that he was going against them and he was arrested.

He spent the next 27 years in prison. While in prison many others around the world became aware of the need for something to be done in South Africa.

In 1990 he was released from prison with the help of then South African President F.W. de Klerk. Together the two helped end the segregation of South Africans.

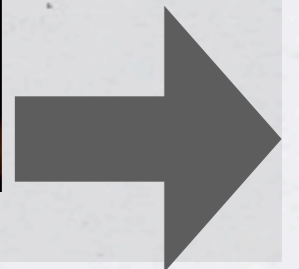


AFTER TAKING A STAND...

In 1994, all races were allowed to vote for their president and Nelson Mandela became the first Black South African President. While he was President he helped improve many conditions for the blacks of South African. He was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with F.W. de Klerk.

In 1999, he resigned as President and started the Nelson Mandela's Children Fund to help children less fortunate in South Africa.

In his later years he helped encourage peace around the world. When he passed away on December 5, 2013, many South Africans gathered and celebrated his life with singing and dancing. Many other people around the world paid tribute to remember Nelson Mandela. *Click the picture to see more photos of people remembering Nelson Mandela.*



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★★★★ | Famous Men who Fought for Human Rights | ★★★★★

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Now that you have learned about what these men took a stand for, make a concept map of some ideas you would take a stand for in your life, school, community, or country.

