I Have a Dream...

Literacy Activities
Teacher Information

I have included activities and links to videos, audio and text that go along with the activities to help you plan how you would like to incorporate it all when you teach your students about Martin Luther King, Jr. The different links are on the activity pages they each coincide with.

Here is an informal outline of how I went through the activities with my students:

I began with having the students complete the KWL set of Pre-Activities

Then, I had them watch the video on Martin’s Big Words (@10 minutes in length)

After the video, the students completed the last sheet of the KWL set and then we shared and discussed what one thing we didn’t know about Dr. King, prior to viewing the video.

With the video events fresh on their minds, I then had the students do the cut and paste “Order of Events” sequencing activity.

The next day, I went over the “I Have a Dream: A Speech that Paints a Beautiful Picture sheet.” We discussed similes and metaphors and talked about why using figuratively language helps the reader or listener better understand what is being said by how it makes us visualize the words in our minds by creating pictures.

I decided to print off the speech (from the website with the audio) for my students to follow along as I played the audio version for them. I told them to highlight or circle any similes or metaphors they heard/read as they listened to the speech.

After the listening to the speech, we shared a few of the sets of figurative language they found and then I gave them each the “Speaking Figuratively about Dreams…” set of sheets. I projected one metaphor and one simile on the screen and had them copy each one on the lines provided on the sheets, and they decide which one was a simile and which one was the metaphor. **Here is a link to a great website that provides a list of metaphors/similes and explains their meaning, if you need help on choosing two good ones to use: Link for example Metaphors/similes in Speech**

The students then used colors, markers and map pencils to draw a picture of each of the two examples in the space provided on the sheets. It was very interesting to see how they came up with different ways to express the metaphor/simile in their illustrations. We discussed that they should draw what they envision in their minds as they read the words. They enjoyed the activity very much!

As a follow up activity, I had the students complete the “Is it a Dream Come True?” writing activity. They were very honest in their writing and we shared a few of them with each other, which led to a great discussion about how our country still needs to work harder for Martin’s dream to come true.

I hope you enjoy the activities!