



Coretta Scott King and Children

Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Identify Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s family: Coretta Scott King and Their Children

Success Criteria:

- Connect the Four Children of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King to Dr. King's Dream

Lesson Content Overview:

As noted in the previous unit, King and Coretta Scott met in Boston. King was at Boston University. Coretta had recently transferred out of Antioch College to enroll on scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Though from Alabama, she hoped to live in the North and become a mezzo-soprano concert singer. Introduced by a mutual friend, the two found that they had many common interests:

- The plight and liberation of Black people in the United States and around the world
- A commitment to serve humanity
- A love of truth and justice
- Religion and philosophy
- Issues of violence and peace in the world
- Classical music

King didn't take long to conclude that Coretta had "everything I have ever wanted in a wife."¹ After a short courtship, they married in Marion, Alabama, on June 18, 1953. "Daddy King" officiated the ceremony on the lawn of the Scott family home. Before they married, however, Coretta made it clear that she intended to return to the conservatory to complete her degree. The two lived in an apartment in Boston. In May 1954, Martin Luther King, Jr. accepted the call to the pastorate of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

The Kings had four children. Their firstborn, Yolanda Denise, was an actress, author, and noted lecturer. Yolanda passed away on May 15, 2007. Martin Luther King, III served as the President and CEO of The King Center, and is a past President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as former Fulton County Commissioner. Dexter Scott King has been President/CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of The King Center, an actor, entrepreneur, lecturer, and author of *Growing Up King: An Intimate Memoir*. Dr. Bernice Albertine King is the current CEO of The King Center, a minister, a licensed attorney, author, thought leader, and noted speaker.

SEL Opener:

- **Show a clip from Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech (August 28, 1963):** *I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*

¹ Coretta Scott King, *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*, 1969, *Holt Rinehart Winston*, 55.



Instructional Activities:

- Activity 1: Read *Coretta Scott King* by Ntozake Shange
 - Discuss the characters, plot, feelings, vocabulary, summary, and themes.
- Activity 2: Read *My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Martin Luther King III
 - Discuss the characters, plot, feelings, vocabulary, summary, and themes.
- Activity 3: Read and Discuss the [Dr. Martin Luther King's Family Google Slides \(K-2\)](#).
 - *Small Group/Individual Work:* Use the [MLK Family Flashcards](#) for the Guess Who portion.
- Activity 4: Read and Discuss the [Dr. Martin Luther King's Family Google Slides \(3-5\)](#).
 - *Individual Work:* Complete the [Guided Notes](#) / [Answer Key](#)
 - *Small Group:* Use the [MLK Family Flashcards](#) for the Guess Who portion.
 - *Large Group Discussion:* Review the guided notes.

Assessments:

- **OPTION 1: K-2:** Complete the [Draw Dr. King's Dream Worksheet](#).
- **OPTION 2: 3-5:** Complete the [Draw Dr. King's Dream Worksheet](#).

Adaptations for Student Needs

IEP:

- Sizes of student groups range
- Students team up with a peer partner, while others would prefer to work individually.
- There is a variety of small-group work
- Chunking information
- Visual cues and wait time
- Visual supports (maps, images, PowerPoint slides, handouts)
- Assessments will be modified, and students given extra time

ELD

- Modified/simplified reading material
- Content-related lists/handouts of key terms
- Text is supported by visuals and connected to real-life experiences