

Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. 's Birthday

Born on this day in 1929, the African—American clergyman Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked hard for civil rights in his native South and elsewhere. Preaching¹⁾ peace and sensibility, he was in the vanguard²⁾ of many demonstrations³⁾ and rallies⁴⁾. In 1963, during the massive March on Washington, King gave the famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. In the speech, King prophesied⁵⁾ a world in which his children “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” King's assassination in April 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, sent shock waves around the world. In succeeding years, various cities and then states made King's birthday a legal holiday. Now a national holiday in the United States, it serves as the focus for discussions, national as well as international, about the issues King held dear, and about the progress—or lack of same—achieved since King had his dream.

一月十五日 马丁·路德·金诞辰纪念日

美国黑人牧师马丁·路德·金博士生于1929年1月15日。他在家乡美国南部、在全国各地，为争取黑人民权做了不懈的努力。他多次参加示威游行和群众集会，带头宣传和平与正义。1963年在“华盛顿大游行”中，金在林肯纪念碑前发表了著名的“我有一个梦想”的演说。在演说中，他曾预言一个世界的到来，在那个世界里，“将不是以他们的肤色，而是以他们的品格优劣来评价”他的孩子们。1968年4月，金在田纳西州孟菲斯市被暗杀，消息震惊了全世界。在此后的几年中，许多城市，接着又有许多州，将金的生日定为法定假日。现在这个日子已经是全美国的假日了。这一天，在美国国内乃至国际上，人们会聚焦于金所魂牵梦萦的问题，讨论自从金发表了演说之后他的梦想实现得怎么样，是有了进展，还是仍有差距。

NOTE 注释：

1. preach [pri:tʃ] v. 传教；宣讲
2. vanguard ['væŋgɑ:d] n. 先锋，先锋，领导者
3. demonstration [demən'streɪʃ(ə)n] n. 示威
4. rally ['ræli] n. 集会
5. prophesy ['prɒfisi] v. 预言，预报