

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**"I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH AND "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE" SONG**

Directions: Read the passage below, then complete the graphic organizer on the following page with information about Martin Luther King, Jr.

"My Country 'Tis of Thee" is an American patriotic song. It was the unofficial national anthem of the United States until "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the national anthem in 1931. The song talks a lot about the freedom the United States gained after the Revolutionary War. It also talks about how that freedom makes the country a "sweet land of liberty."



Martin Luther King, Jr. refers to the song in his famous

"I Have a Dream" speech. He gave that speech during a freedom march in Washington, D.C.

The march was about African Americans asking for the same freedoms that white Americans enjoyed in the United States. Martin Luther King, Jr. uses the word "Negro" to describe African Americans. The word describes people from Africa.

"I HAVE A DREAM"

An excerpt from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at the March for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

“ With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, 'My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.'

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that; let freedom ring from the Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!' ”

Name _____

Date _____

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH AND "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE" SONG

Directions: Use the text and the speech to help you make inferences and answer these questions. Quote or refer to the texts in your answers.

1. What states does Martin Luther King, Jr. mention in the speech?
2. Why is it important that the author mentions different states around the United States?
3. What are some of the things Martin Luther King, Jr. asks listeners to do together in his speech?
4. According to the author, what must be true for America to be a great nation?
5. Why does the author repeat the phrase "let freedom ring" multiple times?

FURTHER RESEARCH: Martin Luther King Jr. mentions spirituals in the last paragraph of the speech. What do you know about them? Do some research online to find out why they are important in African-American history.