Name:

Martin Luther King Jr.

Every year we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. We

remember the life of a great American leader. When Martin

Luther King Jr. was 19, he decided to become a minister. His

first job was at a church in Alabama. In the south, African

Americans were called “colored” and did not have the same

rights as white Americans. In 1955, a black woman was put in

jail when she would not give up her seat on a bus to a white

man. Martin believed all Americans should have the same

rights so he asked black people not to use the bus at all. In

1963, when Martin led a march in Washington D.C., more than

250,000 black and white Americans marched with him. At the

march, he shared his dream that one day, the color of a

person’s skin wouldn’t matter. The next year, the United States

passed a law ending the unfair treatment of black people, so

that everyone was treated equally.

1. What is the author’s purpose in this passage? How do you know?

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2. The author says that Martin Luther King Jr. was a great

American leader. What support does the author give?

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3. Why did people march with Martin in Washington D.C.?

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