

Explore More—Celebrating the Lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez

Directions: Listen to your teacher talk about ways in which we can support the holidays that honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

In this unit you learned about two great Americans—Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. Both men used nonviolent actions to help improve the lives of others. King fought for civil rights, and Chavez fought for better working conditions. There are special holidays honoring both of these men. Let's learn about ways we can support these holidays.

When is the holiday to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.?

We celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on the third Monday in January. This is the first national holiday to honor an individual black American. We all have a responsibility to continue the work that King began. This special holiday gives us an opportunity to reflect on the life and work of King, honor his legacy, and continue making his dream a reality.

What kinds of activities can we do to support this holiday?

There are many different things you can do to support this holiday. Here are some ideas:

- Read books about King's life. Write down the five most important things you learned about King's life. Tell your friends and family about what you learned.
- With your family members, read aloud or listen to a speech delivered by King. Discuss how this speech makes you feel. Discuss whether you agree or disagree with King.
- King dedicated his life to helping others. Find a way that you can help others. Search the Internet to learn about community service projects in your area. Or start your own community service project with your class. By helping others, you will make America a better place.

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When is the holiday to honor Cesar Chavez?

The state of California established an official holiday to honor Cesar Chavez. This holiday is celebrated on Chavez's birthday, March 31, or on the Monday or Friday before or after this date. This holiday is intended to promote community service in honor of Chavez's life and work.

What kinds of activities can we do to support this holiday?

There are many different things you can do to support this holiday. Here are some ideas:

- Read books about Chavez's life. Write down the five most important things you learned about his life. Tell your friends and family about what you learned.
- Invite migrant workers to visit your class. Learn about what they do. Find out how their lives are affected by the work of Chavez. Find out if there are still things they are trying to change.
- Like Martin Luther King, Jr., Chavez dedicated his life to helping others. He also showed people that they have the power to help themselves. Find out how you can help people in your community. Work with your classmates to come up with a list of 10 ways you can help. Choose one way you will help people around the Chavez holiday. ❖

YOUR TURN!

Write your answers to the following questions.

1. You learned about some ways to honor the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez holidays. Think of other activities that you and your classmates could do on each of these holidays. Record them in the chart.

| Ways to Honor the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday | Ways to Honor the Cesar Chavez Holiday |
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2. Write a letter to a friend telling him or her about the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez holidays. Explain why we celebrate the lives and work of each person. Give your friend ideas of ways he or she can continue the work that these men started.
