

Malcolm X

Malcolm Little was born in 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. His childhood was not ordinary; he faced many challenges, including losing his father at a young age. His family moved often because of threats from people who didn't like his father's activism. These experiences made Malcolm X want to communicate about the struggles of Black Americans. As he grew up, he got involved in some criminal activity. He served time in prison for burglary. While in prison, he changed his life by reading and learning. In fact, he even changed his religion. Malcolm X met Betty Shabazz, and they got married in 1958. Together, they had six children. His relationship with Betty helped him stay strong in his work for justice. He never committed a crime again.

In fact, Malcolm Little started to realize something about the world. For one thing, his name should not be Little. He changed his last name to "X," the unknown. Malcolm X became a powerful leader in the civil rights movement. He worked to communicate the idea that Black people should be proud of their heritage and should fight for their rights in unusual ways. While many leaders believed in peaceful protests, Malcolm X believed people should protect themselves *by any means necessary*. His ideas influenced many people, including other activists and leaders. Malcolm X's influence can still be felt today, as he helped change how people think about race and equality. His legacy is strong in the world. His connection to comics is also interesting—some people say that the character of Professor X from *X-Men* was inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., while Malcolm X influenced the character of Magneto, showing how their different approaches to justice are remembered even in popular stories.

1. *Is Malcolm X a good guy or a bad guy?*
2. *What made Malcolm X influential?*

Reverend Martin Luther King, Junior

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He grew up in an ordinary neighborhood with his family, but he faced racism at a young age, which influenced him deeply. His father was a pastor, and Martin grew up in the church, where he learned to communicate powerful messages. As a child, Martin was a good student and loved reading. These experiences helped shape his unusual path as a leader in the fight for equality. In 1953, he married Coretta Scott, and together they had four children. Their relationship was strong, and Coretta supported his work throughout his life.

Martin Luther King Jr. became a key leader in the civil rights movement. He believed in peaceful protests to bring about change. Martin's influence helped lead to laws that made life better for Black Americans. One of the most famous things he did was lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, which helped end segregation on buses. He also gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 to communicate his vision of a world where people of all races could live together equally. Many people, including activists like Rosa Parks and John Lewis, were influenced by his work. His legacy continues today, as his efforts led to important changes in laws that promoted equality and justice.

Interestingly, Martin Luther King Jr.'s belief in peaceful protest influenced the creation of the character Professor X in the X-Men comics. Just as Professor X worked for peace between mutants and humans, Martin Luther King Jr. worked for peaceful relationships between different races in the real world. His life and message continue to inspire people around the globe.

3. *Malcolm X said "by any means necessary" whereas Martin Luther King believed in peaceful protests only. Which do you think is more effective?*
4. *How are Malcolm and Martin similar?*
5. *Videos*
 - a. [Top Five Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement](#)
 - b. [Primary Source Videos from History](#) (school appropriate!)

Reading Group stuff:

1. Both articles follow the same format for the first paragraph: Personal life
 - a. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?
 - b. What is the first paragraph about?
2. Both articles follow the same format for the second paragraph: Legacy.
 - a. What is the main idea in the second paragraph?
 - b. What are the supporting details of the main idea?