LISTENING: MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was shot dead 50 years ago, on April 3, 1968. The video we are going to watch came out on the 50th anniversary of his most famous “I have a dream speech” which was delivered in 1963.

Watch the following video and say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Slavery was abolished in the same year the Ku Klux Klan was created.
2. Black people were accepted in hospitals in Washington but not in the south.
3. Most Baptist churches supported segregation.
4. Martin Luther King was sent to prison in 1965 for organising the Bus Boycott.
5. School children also demonstrated and were attacked by the police.
6. Television helped people to become aware of injustice against black people.
7. President Kennedy was killed in Dallas during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
8. King was killed while he was standing on a hotel balcony with his wife.
9. There were violent protests in the streets after King’s was shot.
10. King's dream came true when Obama was elected president of the USA.
TRANSCRIPT & KEY

Fifty years ago on August 28 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. A pastor and the figurehead of the civil rights movement in the US, King used the Bible and the US Declaration of Independence to help shape those iconic words.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed"

The US abolished slavery in 1865 after the Civil War. But the fact remained that in many states black people were still treated as second-class citizens. (1T) Founded in the same year as slavery was abolished, the Ku Klux Klan created a climate of terror for black people. And there was racial segregation in the south.

(2F) "Right here in Washington there were no restaurants in this part of town where I could have gone or my parents could have gone to eat. None of the hotels in this part of town would have accepted African-Americans as guests. None of the hospitals would have accepted African-Americans as patients. There was a small section of black (Washington) DC where there were banks and stores and only in those stores could African Americans try on clothes"

(3F) Resistance to segregation was mainly organised by Baptist churches. Martin Luther King was the head of the congregation at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

A black lady being arrested in Montgomery for not giving up her seat on the bus for a white passenger, led to a campaign by black people refusing to use the city's bus service. That lady was Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King helped organise the 1965 Montgomery Bus Boycott. King encouraged nonviolent protests such as sit-ins, marches and boycotts. (4F) He went to jail during 1963's campaign in Birmingham, Alabama, where desegregation was being strongly resisted by many white people.

"In May of that year - in Birmingham, Alabama – (5T) there had been a children's campaign where elementary and high school students left class to go demonstrate in the streets. This is also (6T) the dawn of television, not only in the United States but across the world, and the images that Americans saw, black white, Latino, Asian, and how these children were attacked by fire hoses, adults were attacked by these police dogs, really seared the nation's conscience."

The famous speech, which became a high point for the civil rights movement, came during the 'March on Washington For Jobs and Freedom'. (7F) President John F. Kennedy, who had previously spoken out in favour of civil rights, was assassinated three months later. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act the following year.

“The time is here. Action must be now.”

The US federal government now had the power to end segregation in the southern states.

(8F) “Martin Luther King Jr. was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee, shot in the face as he stood alone on the balcony of a hotel room”

President announced a national day of mourning three days later on April 7, 3 days after King was shot. (9T) A week of race riots in several US cities after King's death was contrary to the nonviolence he had advocated while he was alive, but many black people felt there was still a long way to go and still do.

“So the struggle isn't an all gone struggle. Many people are now able to register and to vote. We have elected a man of colour as President of the United States and some people today ask me whether (10 F) the election of President Barak Obama is a fulfilment of Dr King’s dream and I say no, it's just a down payment. We are not there yet. There are still too many people who have been left out and left behind.