

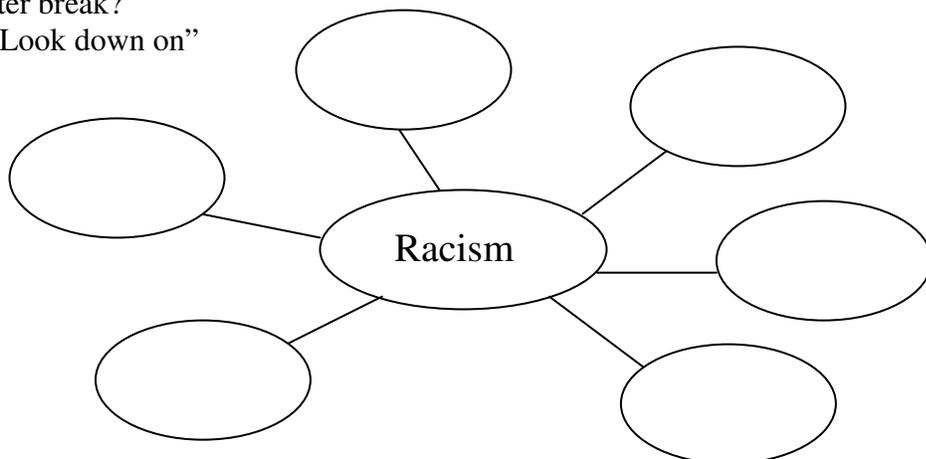
Martin Luther King, Jr. and Racism

Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? How was your winter break?
Discuss the idiom of the week – “Look down on”

Let's get started

- What is racism?
- When you hear the word “racism,” what other words do you think of? Write the words in the diagram.



Read the story together.

In the United States, racism has been a major problem. From the 1600's to 1865, white people used black people as slaves. After slavery ended, white people still looked down on black people. From 1876-1965, there were laws that segregated blacks and whites. For example, blacks and whites went to separate schools, ate at separate restaurants, and drank from separate water fountains.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was a black leader who said that segregation and racism are wrong. He worked to bring freedom and equality to blacks. In 1963, he gave a speech about a dream (a hope) he had. He said:

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character... I have a dream that one day . . . little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

Martin Luther King, Jr. helped the United States to be a better country. On the third Monday of each January, Americans take time to celebrate his work. Schools, banks, the post office, and other government offices are closed.

Discuss these questions as a group.

- Do you have “brothers” and “sisters” who are not your real relatives? Do you have “mothers” or “fathers” or “children” who are not relatives? Why or why not?
- Is racism a problem today? Explain your answer.
- Do you have a dream for the world, your country, or your community? Tell us about your dream.

Conversation skills

As we discuss, let's ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let's also use the phrase "Tell me more." The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

Discussion: Discuss these questions as a group.

Have you ever experienced racism?

- Where were you? What happened? When did it happen? How did you feel?

Does racism happen in your native country? Please explain.

What causes racism? Why do you think racism happens?

What do you think of interracial marriages?



Discrimination means treating people differently because of their **race, religion, gender, sexual orientation**, or some other category. Give specific examples of discrimination in America.

What kinds of discrimination happen in your native country? Give specific examples.

What kind of discrimination is most common today? Explain your answer.

Do you think that people discriminate against non-native English speakers? When or where do you think this happens? Has it happened to you?

Talk about American discrimination laws with your leader. What do you think about the laws? Are there laws about discrimination in your native country? Explain.

Have you ever watched a movie or read a book about discrimination? Tell us about the story.

What are some examples of discrimination you have seen in the news or media?

If you saw someone discriminating against someone else, what would you do?

Talk about these scenarios. Do the scenarios show discrimination? Explain.

- A young, Latino man is frequently stopped by the police while driving his car. He has done nothing to break the law.
- A woman applies for a job to work on a construction crew. Instead, the manager offers her an office position.
- Shoab is a Muslim who prays five times a day. Two of his prayer sessions occur during work hours. He asks his supervisor if his breaks can be scheduled so that he can pray at the right times. His supervisor refuses.

Group Reflection: What did you learn today? What did you learn about yourself or someone in the group? What do you want to talk about next week?