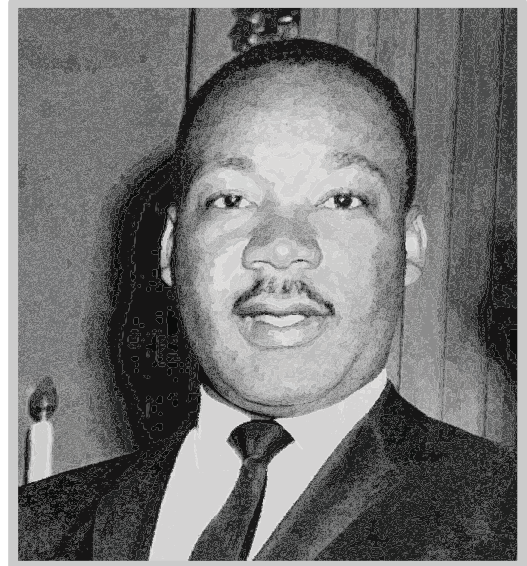




Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most important figures in the fight for fair and equal treatment for all Americans. Who was he, where was he from, and how did he help?

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- As a child, he was a hardworking, bright student who later went to college and earned a degree.
- King married Coretta Scott in 1953. They had four children.
- King was a Baptist minister in Montgomery, Alabama.
- In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in the “whites only” area of a bus and refusing to give her seat up to a white man. King was upset about the way Mrs. Parks was treated.
- King encouraged black people to stop traveling on buses. This lasted over a year until there were no longer any “whites only” areas on buses.
- King became the leader of the American civil rights movement. He put together peaceful protests including marches and sit-ins at “whites only” food counters in cafes and restaurants.
- In 1963, he marched to Washington where he made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, spelling out his dream of black and white men and women living and working side by side.
- In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the work he had done for civil rights.
- In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed by James Earl Ray.

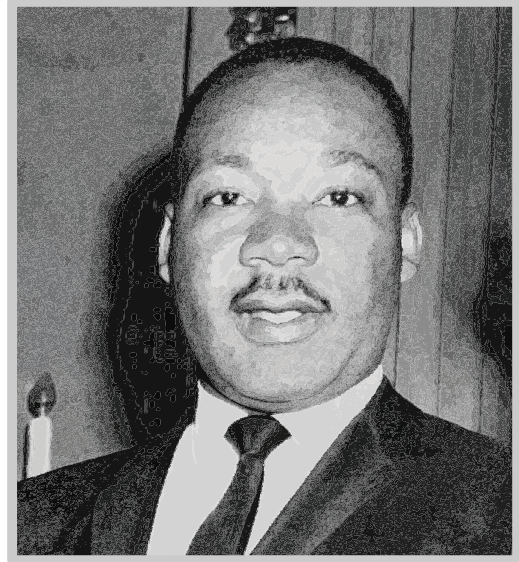


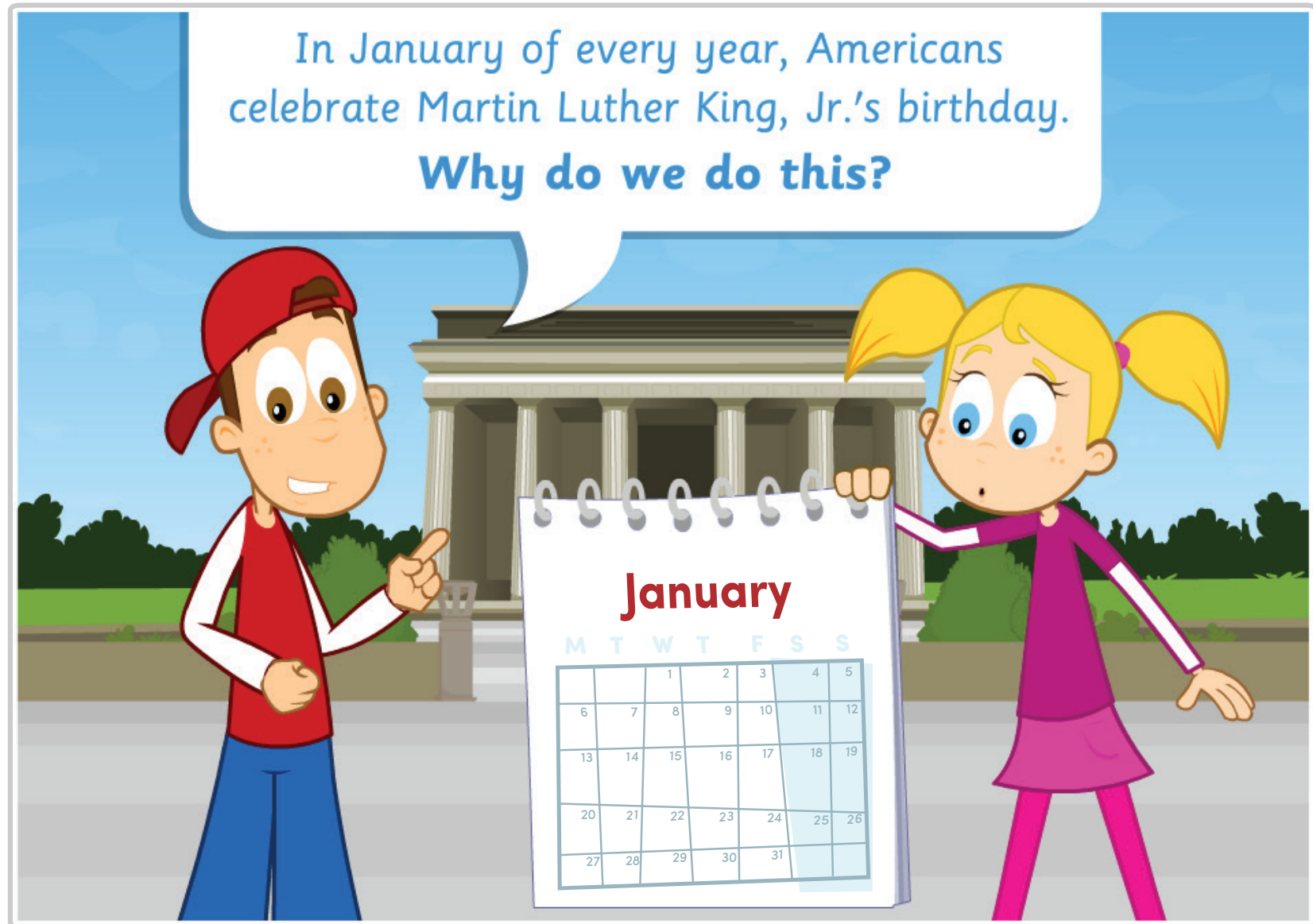


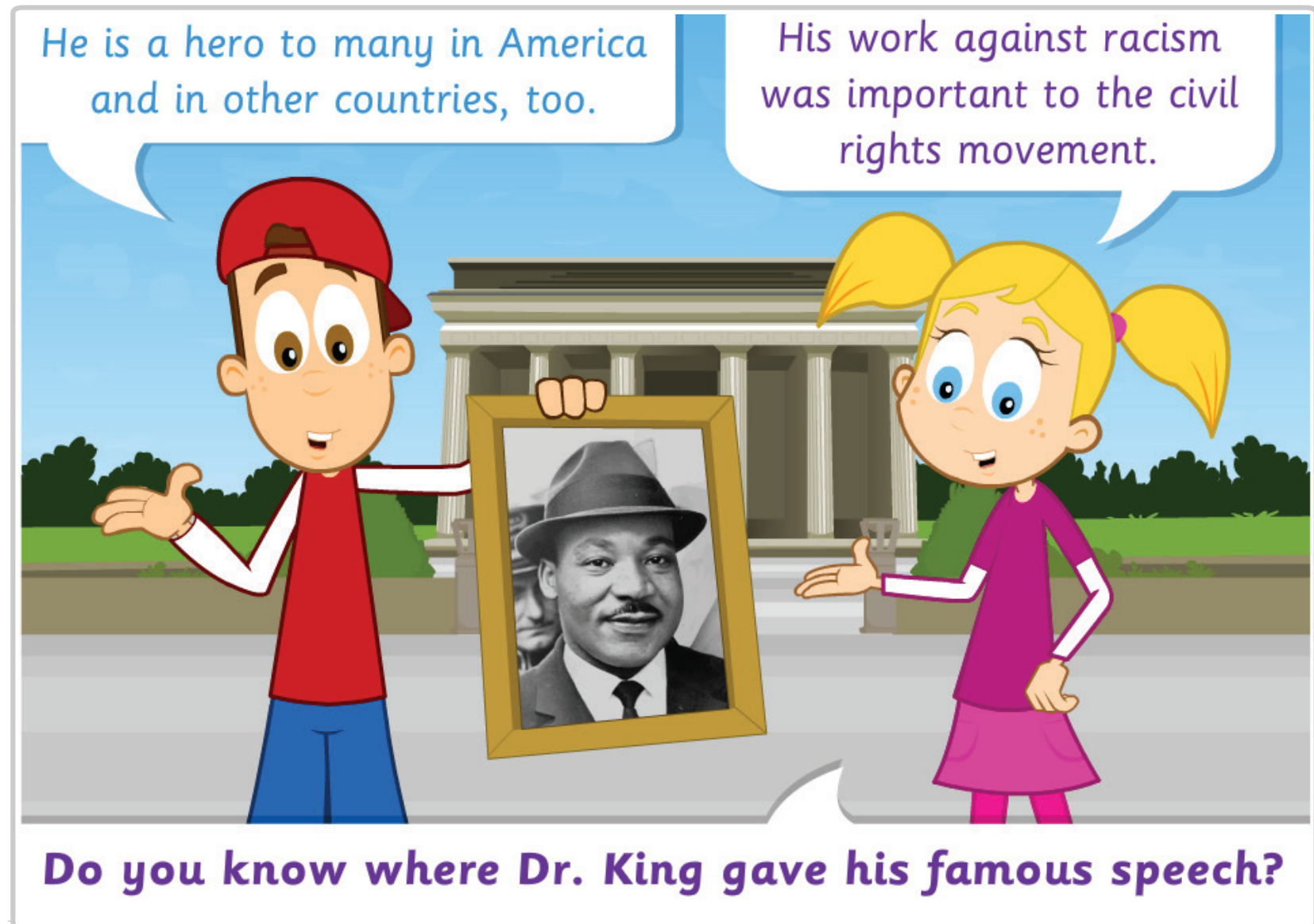
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most important figures in the civil rights movement in America in the 1950s and 1960s. Who was he, where was he from, and what influenced him?

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- As a child, he was a hardworking, bright student who later went to college and earned a degree.
- King married Coretta Scott in 1953. They had four children.
- After his marriage, King became a Baptist minister in Montgomery, Alabama.
- In 1955, a year after King joined the church in Montgomery, Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in the “whites only” area of a bus and refusing to give her seat up to a white man.
- King led the protests against Parks’s arrest and encouraged black people to stop traveling on buses. The boycott lasted over a year until there were no longer any “whites only” areas on buses.
- King became the leader of the American civil rights movement and led many protests against the way black people were treated. He insisted that protests be nonviolent.
- He organized peaceful protests including marches and sit-ins at “whites only” food counters in cafes and restaurants.
- Even though he believed in nonviolence, he and his family were in danger. King himself was stabbed and his house was bombed.
- In 1960, King moved back to Atlanta where he continued with the civil rights movement.
- In 1963, he marched to Washington where he made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, spelling out his dream of black and white men and women living and working side by side.
- In 1964, the Civil Rights Act banning discrimination in public places was passed. To recognize the part he played, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis by James Earl Ray. His killer was convicted and sentenced to 99 years in jail.

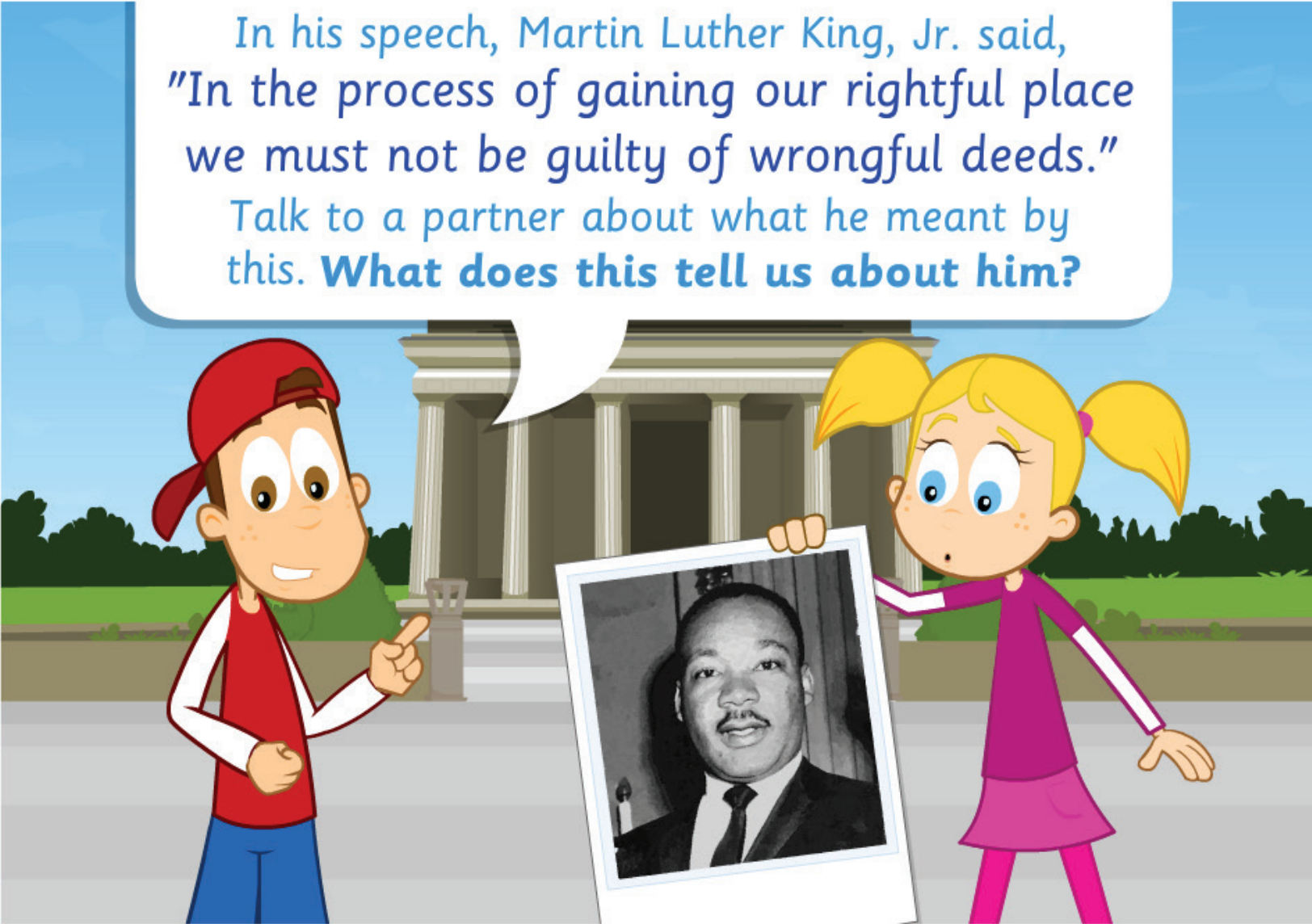






Critical Thinking Question

In his speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. said,
"In the process of gaining our rightful place
we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds."
Talk to a partner about what he meant by
this. **What does this tell us about him?**



The illustration shows two cartoon children, a boy and a girl, standing in front of a classical building with columns. The boy is pointing towards a large photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. that the girl is holding. A speech bubble above them contains a quote from his speech and a critical thinking question.

" I have a dream that my four little 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."

