

Name _____

Martin Luther King Jr.: Beyond the Dream

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Martin's hobbies, such as playing the piano and writing, were important to him because they provided him with moments of relaxation and self-expression. Playing the piano allowed him to connect with music and find solace, while writing allowed him to articulate his thoughts and beliefs. These activities likely provided him with a sense of balance and creativity, which could have influenced his work in the civil rights movement by giving him emotional strength and an outlet for his ideas.
2. Martin's close friendship with Harry Belafonte contributed to the civil rights movement by bringing attention to the cause through Belafonte's fame and influence. Belafonte used his platform to raise awareness and funds for the movement, and his support added credibility and momentum to the struggle for civil rights. Having strong allies like Belafonte was important because it amplified the movement's message and resources.
3. The personal challenges that were likely most difficult for Martin Luther King Jr. were the constant threats to his life and his family's safety. These challenges placed immense pressure on him and required him to live with a constant sense of danger. However, he overcame these challenges by maintaining his commitment to the principles of nonviolence and justice, which he believed were worth the personal risks.
4. It is important to remember and celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy because his work and message continue to inspire positive change in the world. His commitment to nonviolence, love, and equality serves as a timeless example of how one person's dedication can lead to significant social progress. His legacy reminds us of the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice, and it encourages us to work towards a more just and equitable society.

