**Lesson Plan Template**

**Title:** Civil Rights Leader – The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Topics/Concepts:** Black History Month

**Grade:** Elementary, 3rd and up (but can be adapted)

**Objective:** Students will learn about one of the most prominent historical African-American figures in the U.S and his contributions to U.S. History, specifically the Civil Rights Movement, why that movement was important and how he has influenced us today

**Vocabulary:** African-American, character, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., diversity, inclusion, segregation, African Diaspora, enslavement, assassination, activist, racism, The Civil Rights Movement, prejudice

**Materials:** PowerPoint, scissors, white paper, colored pencils (or crayons and markers), tape, glue

**Technological Components:** Projector, screen and internet for PowerPoint and any other information you may need to look up on Google

**Lesson Plan Outline**

**Warm-Up Questions:**

* Why is history important?
* Why is it important to celebrate people of all cultural backgrounds?
* Why do you think the U.S. celebrates Black History Month?

**Lesson:**

* Start the PowerPoint that offers an introduction about the purpose of Black History Month and why it is important to celebrate it today
* Introduce The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his biography and why it is necessary to say his *whole* name and not just “MLK” all the time
* Explain the vocabulary words as you go along
* Show a clip of his “I Have a Dream” speech, ask the co-teacher to translate when necessary so they understand

**Main Activity: Door of Diversity**

(Since The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. valued diversity and inclusion, students will create a wall of hands of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds with a famous quote of his in the center as a representation of this vision)

* Each student will trace their hands
* Each student will color their hands a different color (can be any color, including yellow, green, red, etc. literally any color)
* Each student will tape their hands on the door (or wall or any empty space you have in the classroom) that surrounds the following quote a student can write or you can type up beforehand:

**“I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” – The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Closing/Review:**

* Ask the class how they can live the dream that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted for everyone?

Leave time for students to ask questions they still may have about Black History Month or The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Emphasize that the month is meant to educate students on popular and unknown historical figures that aren’t mentioned in history books.

**Final Thoughts (for teachers):** This can easily be a series of lessons for the whole month, each time creating a lesson and activity based on one important historical figure. I started with The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as an introduction because is one of the most popular. But, I highly recommend continuing with people who are lesser known (case and point the women behind the true story of *Hidden Figures*) to broaden the depth of their knowledge of African-American history to more than just slavery or the Civil Rights Movement.