

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 19, 2009**

On this day, we remember how hard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. worked to make the world a better place for everyone to live. Explain to the children that Dr. King wanted everyone to love and accept one another. Use the explanation.

In some places years ago, the rules were not the same for everyone. Some people could play in the park, drink water from a water fountain, and eat in nice restaurants. But when other people wanted to do those things, they were told, "NO! You can't play in this park! You can't drink from this water fountain! You can't eat in this restaurant!" There were other unfair rules too. A man named Martin Luther King Jr. thought that this was not fair. He wanted everyone to have the same rules. He said people should be nice to everyone – even those who were unfair. Many people listened to him. They marched together, carried signs, and sang songs to try to get the rules changed. After a while, things did change. Now everyone can play in the park, drink from a water fountain, and eat in a restaurant when they want to!



**Make People Collages**

Set out old magazines, scissors, and glue. Suggest the children cut or tear pictures of people from the magazines. Some children may wish to glue the pictures of people to paper. This might be a good time to share with the children that Martin Luther King Jr. taught that though we are different in some ways, we are alike in many ways as well. Invite the children to share ways the people in the pictures are alike.

**Chinese New Year – January 26, 2009**

Chinese New Year is a very important holiday to people from China and other parts of eastern Asia. The celebration lasts for 15 days. This year the first day of Chinese New Year is January 26. Every year in China is named after one of twelve animals. The year 2009 is the Year of the Ox. Many Chinese children dress in new clothes to celebrate Chinese New Year. People join in a huge parade led by a silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. According to legend, the dragon hibernates most of the year, so people throw firecrackers to keep the dragon awake.



Invite your families who celebrate Chinese New Year to bring in objects of significance like Lucky Money, foods they eat, traditional attire, and music.

**The Snowy Day**

**Materials and Preparations**

- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- Dark colored art paper or posterboard
- Markers/crayons
- Collage materials (paper shreds, cotton balls, natural materials, bark, cardboard, etc.)
- Glue

**Learning Experiences:**

- Read Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day*.
- Discuss how the artist created the pictures using materials of different textures, an art technique known as collage.
- Collect interesting materials from outside to enrich your collage materials collection.
- Help children arrange and glue materials on the art paper or posterboard to create a collage of a winter day typical in your local area.

