



1991 Freedom Award  
National Recipient  
Coretta Scott King



PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

**Biography**

After the assassination of her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King carried on his civil rights work. Mrs. King has traveled throughout the United States speaking on behalf of racial and economic justice, women and children’s rights, gay and lesbian rights, nuclear disarmament, and the needs of the poor. Born in Alabama, Mrs. King studied music and voice in Boston where she met her husband. She devoted great energies to her four children during Dr. King’s career, but also actively speaking on behalf of the unheard. Mrs. King was frequently a representative and mediator for peace and justice organizations.

What is Mrs. King’s profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Receptionist
- B. Philanthropist
- C. Attorney
- D. Activist

Answers:  
B - Mrs. King is an activist.

**Vocabulary**


**Activist:** A person who practices direct action to effect changes in social conditions and governments

**Philanthropist:** A person who promotes human welfare, usually through charitable gifts

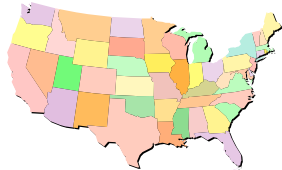
Name two people (aside from Mrs. King) who you think are **Activists**:

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1.



2.



3.



4.

**Can you identify the images above?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:  
1. World Map 2. United States 3 Alabama 4. Alabama state flag



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**POST-VISIT ACTIVITY**

On behalf of the Women’s Strike for Peace, Mrs. King was a delegate to the 1962 Disarmament Conference in Geneva. Women Strike for Peace (WSP) evolved out of an international protest against atmospheric nuclear testing held on November 1, 1961. On that day between 12,000 and 50,000 women in various nations demonstrated to protest nuclear testing and to voice concern, in particular, about the hazards posed by such testing to children's health. In the United States some 1,500 women marched in Washington, D.C., to make their appeal. WSP remained a significant voice in the peace movement throughout the 1980s and '90s, speaking out against U.S. intervention in Latin America and the Persian Gulf states. In addition to staging direct political action, the organization encouraged members to write to legislators and worked in coalition with other women's peace groups such as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Women for Meaningful Summits. During the late 1990s WSP focused on total international abolition of nuclear armaments by the end of the 20th century. She has continued to work toward international disarmament.

**New Vocabulary**

**Disarmament:** To give up or reduce armed forces and weapons

Why is disarmament important? How can countries work together to ensure peace?

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Can you name some ways to produce social and political change? What were some of the methods used by WSP?

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How can women in particular make an impact? How is peace tied to women’s concerns and unique issues?

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