

The Children's March of 1963
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In 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. led a March to end segregation in Birmingham Alabama. He held sit-ins and protests. The marchers were marching peacefully and calmly, filling up the jails showing that they would not stop fighting peacefully no matter how hard the police tried. They walked along the side of the road peacefully holding up signs and singing songs.

In my opinion, Dr. King's idea to put children into the march was necessary because the children proved to the police and firefighters that they were brave and would not quit. Before they marched, the children were taught not to fight or use violence. They prepared for three months on how to protest peacefully.

I believe that all the black kids and teens joined the march on May 2nd to prove it was affecting children and teens as well. I would join because it's not okay for people to be treated unfairly. The firehoses were spraying on the people marching. The police were spitting on people and they had their police dogs attacking the marchers. When the protesters were being attacked they remained calm and peaceful because Dr. King wanted to show they could remain calm in a crisis. *good p!*

When the children poured into downtown Birmingham the police started arresting the people. The jails filled quickly with the children leaving little or no room for adults. So they started filling up the fair grounds and they eventually let everyone go at the end of the march.

The changes that the children march made were that they eventually got equal rights. They achieved their goal which was to be treated fairly. They achieved their goal by staying peaceful and never giving up even in the hardest times. The children joining the march showed everyone that they were brave and never willing to give up. The march was all over the news and lots of people were talking about the march. *good p!*

Students like me can bring change to our community by helping people in need by donating clothes, helping out in soup kitchens, and by being kind to all races, religion, and nationalities. These marchers can teach us to be brave, never to give up, to always stay peaceful in hard times, and to fight for what we believe in. Children can also speak up, say something if they see it, and not let kids get bullied. Students should also never be a bystander because then the world will never get better. We should always be *very good*

role models for younger kids and older kids no matter the color of their skin or your religion. All people deserve the same no matter what.

After the march people started to end segregation and people started to get treated fairly no matter their skin color or religion. The reason they started the march was to show people that they were being treated in an unfair way and that other people wouldn't like to be treated so unfairly.

All these children in this march grew up as heroes knowing they changed the world. These children inspired hundreds of other people of all ages to peacefully stand up for what they believe is right. People also can't forget to not be racist, be kind to everyone no matter their skin color or religion, not to judge people, never be mean, and to not be a bystander.

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The year is 1963, and racial tension is at an all-time high. John F. Kennedy is the president, and Lyndon B. Johnson is the vice president.

The afternoon of May 2, 1963, we skipped class and jumped out of our classroom windows. We met at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. As the clock ticked closer and closer to 12 in the afternoon, my heart began to race fast, very fast, and my palms felt soggy, like a wet sponge. We were instructed to march in twos toward City Hall and the downtown business district. We were greeted by police officers, nightsticks, and some high-powered water that caught me off guard. Firefighters were spraying kids with water hoses as we huddled together and kept low. While marching, I read damaged cardboard signs that read, "CAN A MAN LOVE GOD and HATE HIS BROTHER?" We continued to march until Bull Connor's police force escorted us by school buses to the county jails and juvenile detention facilities.

The march lasted for eight days, eight long days of protest. More and more children poured into the streets daily. Television and newspaper images of children being attacked would be seen and studied for years by children who look and feel the same way I do. Children who want freedom, liberty, and justice for all. Six days later, on May 8th, a temporary truce was called, and by May 10th, an agreement was reached by the government and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In May 1963, more than 1,000 Black students, some as young as elementary age, marched in Birmingham, Alabama, to protest unfair segregation laws: this event is called the Children's March or Children's Crusade. This march was necessary; Black leaders tried their hardest to end segregation and fight for freedom through mass meetings, lunch counter sit-ins, nonviolent marches through the streets, and boycotts of segregated stores during the shopping season, all simply for freedom in the southern

states. This march was one of the main events that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed legal segregation in public places and banned many kinds of discrimination.

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a letter from Birmingham jail: "Include more children and teenagers in the civil rights movement". Children did not have the same consequences as adults, like jail time, unemployment, and even losing their own families. Adding children to the march would increase the number of participants, and this would show the government that they wanted and deserved the same rights as the people in the white race.

The march demonstrated that young people's voices matter and that kids can be brave leaders for fairness and equality, a lesson that inspires today's youth-led protests for racial justice and human rights. Remembering the Children's March helps today's society keep working against racism and reminds students that standing up peacefully for what is right can change the country.

My name is Breylin Friend. I am an African American, 6th-grade student attending St Mary's School in Wooster, Ohio. I saw myself while studying the Great Children's Crusade and thought it was only right to relive the story in a first-person point of view. I am honored by the courage and strength these children portrayed not only during the march but also at this time of segregation. Children can make a difference; we all can make a difference.