



# ELA Virtual Learning

# **7th Grade ELA**

April 17, 2020



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Lesson: April 17, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

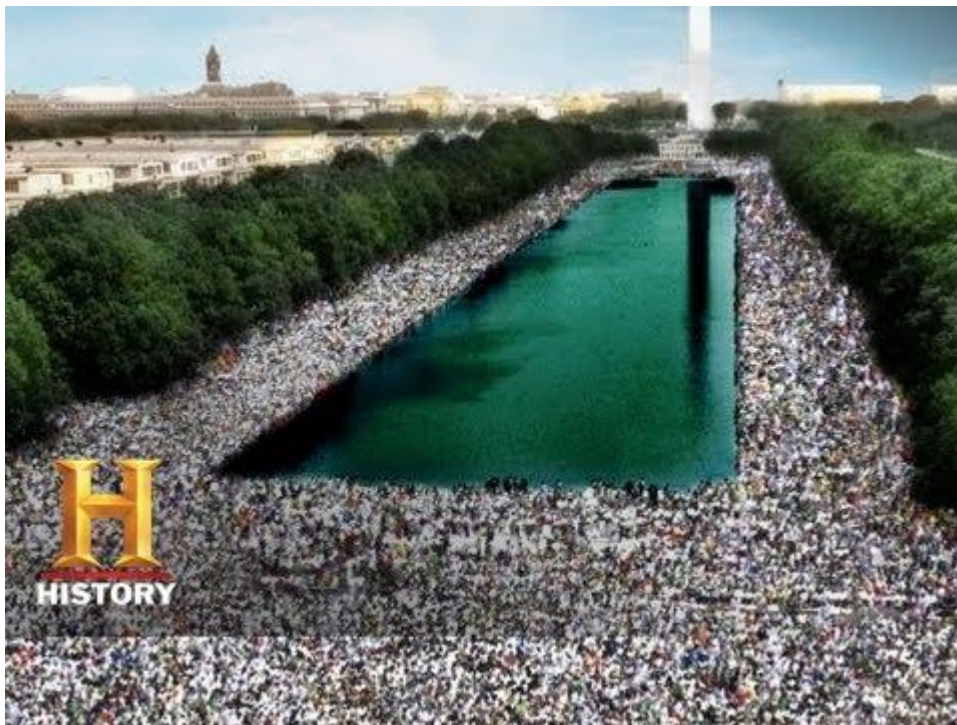
**The student will:**

- explain how the text reflects historical and/or cultural contexts
- write responses using complete sentences with standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar

# Warm Up

Step 1

Watch this video:



# Warm Up

## Step 2

On a piece of paper write your answer to this prompt:

What might have happened if Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the speech he had prepared and/or he spoke for only his allotted time of 4 minutes? Write for 2-3 minutes.



# Warm Up

## Step 3

On the attached, *I Have A Dream*, fact sheet decide whether each statement is True or False. Write your answers on the same paper as your writing prompt. Then go to the answer sheet and see how you did.

[I Have a Dream Facts?](#)

[I Have A Dream Answers](#)



# Learn

Historical context is an important part of life and literature, and without it, memories, stories, and characters have less meaning.

Historical context deals with the details that surround an occurrence.

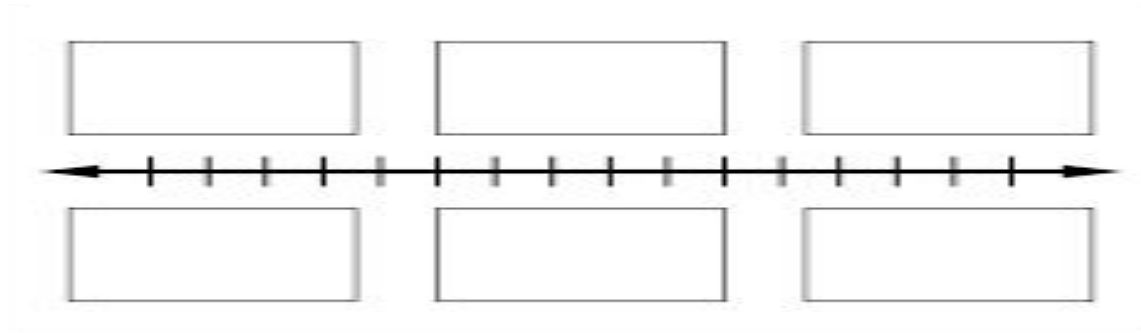
In more technical terms, historical context refers these aspects that existed during a certain time or place:

- Social Conditions
- Religious conditions
- Economic conditions
- Political conditions

# Learn

In ELA, a strong understanding of the **historical context** behind a work's creation can give us a better understanding of and appreciation for the narrative, or story.

In analyzing historical events, context can help us understand what **motivates people to behave as they did.**



# Learn

**Example 1:** Read this sentence from documents in Salem, Mass., in 1692, during the famed Salem Witch Trials. : *"Sally hid her hands behind her back and crossed her fingers before she answered."*

- If you read the sentence **without** the historical context, it is an innocent sentence where a girl tells a small lie.
- If you read the sentence with historical context, religious intensity was at an extreme, and villagers were nearly obsessed with the devil and witchcraft. At that time, if a young woman were to tell a lie, it was cause for hysteria and a violent reaction. A reader would assume that poor Sally was a candidate for the gallows and put to death.
- [Click here for more info about the Salem Witch Trials](#)





# Learn

**Example 2:** Read this sentence from a letter sent in 1849, *"My daughter will be heading to California shortly after she marries."*

- If you read the sentence **without** the historical context, it doesn't give you any information about why she is leaving and what is in California.
- If you read the sentence with historical context, we realize a young woman heading for California in 1849 might be following her husband on a treacherous treasure-seeking expedition for the gold rush. This mother would probably be quite fearful for her child, and she would know that it would be a very long time before she'd see her daughter again, if ever.
- [Click here for more info about the California Gold Rush](#)



# Practice

Follow along with the provided text as you listen to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, *I Have a Dream*, speech:

As you read think about the historical context of the United States in 1965.

[I Have a Dream Speech and Text](#)



# Practice con't

Answer the following questions using your RACE strategy. Feel free to do some outside research to help form your answer, but please include a link to the sources your used.

1. What was life like in 1965 for African Americans in the United States? Explain your answer naming and explaining specific historical events.
2. How would you describe the historical impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, "I Have a Dream?"

**RACE**


HOW TO ANSWER A TEXT EVIDENCE QUESTION:

**R**estate the Question

**A**nsWER the Question

**C**ite Text Evidence

**E**xplain What it Means



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## Additional Resources

President Harry S. Truman was the first president to address civil rights. Listen to his speech [HERE](#).

You may also find President John F. Kennedy's [Civil Rights Address](#) interesting.

Here is an [interview](#) with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.