

## Year 5 General Studies

# Famous Speeches

Many events are marked by speeches but only a few speeches become events in themselves. Since the beginning of time, great leaders have used their oratory powers to win and inspire followers. Below is a brief summary of three famous speeches from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that have motivated and given hope to millions.

### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"I Have a Dream" is a public speech that was delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States.



### **Paul Keating**

Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered the Redfern address speech in Redfern Park on 10 December 1992, launching Australia's program for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. The National Archives of Australia record the title of this speech as Opportunity and care, dignity and hope, 1993. Few of those who were present were aware that they were witnessing history: A politician admitting that "we committed the murders", "we took the lands", "we brought the diseases" and "we took the children".



### **Sir Winston Churchill**

Churchill's 'We shall fight on the beaches' speech on 4 June 1940 is a eulogy to the British war effort that has been immortalised in popular memory of the Second World War. As a newly appointed Prime Minister, Churchill's first month in office was defined by the Dunkirk evacuation. Over 300,000 Allied soldiers were evacuated in a sensational rescue mission. The success was down to a combination of German errors and the brilliant execution of the evacuation plan. However, the fact remained that, with France now fallen, Britain had become an attractive target for German invasion.



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## Questions

1. What was the occasion for Prime Minister Paul Keating's famous Redfern address?

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2. Who was the newly appointed Prime Minister that gave the 'We shall fight on the beaches' speech?

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3. Put the three speeches in chronological order.

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4. 'Many events are marked by speeches but only a few speeches become events in themselves.' What does the author mean by this statement?

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5. Churchill's 'We shall fight on the beaches' speech was in relation to World War One. True / False

6. Which two orators were Prime Minister during their famous speeches?

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7. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist. True / False