

## Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She spent her childhood in Alabama. When she was 11, she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. Later, she worked as a seamstress in Montgomery.

Rosa Parks has been called the "mother of the civil rights movement" and one of the most important citizens of the 20th century. In the early 1950s, the bus system in Montgomery, as in many parts of the United States, was segregated. Blacks were required to board the bus at the front, buy their tickets, and then re-board the bus in the back. Sometimes, they weren't able to get on the bus again before it drove away. They were not allowed to sit in the front of the bus, which sometimes made it difficult to get off at the right stop. Even if they were sitting in the "black section", they were still required to give their seats up to white passengers if the "white section" was full. In December of 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. The bus driver had her arrested. She was tried and convicted of violating a local ordinance.

Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system. This refusal to ride the bus introduced the country to a clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr. who gained national prominence, leading the protest with the words: "There comes a time that people get tired". Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision outlawing segregation on city buses. In December 1956, Montgomery's public transportation system was legally integrated.

Over the next four decades, Rosa Parks helped make her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle. This pioneer in the struggle for racial equality earned many honors, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal. She is an example of courage and determination and an inspirational symbol to all Americans. She recently died in Detroit, Michigan on October 24, 2005 at age 92.

1. What did Rosa Parks refuse to do?

- A. Go to jail
- B. Ride a bus
- C. Give up her seat
- D. Pay for her ticket

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Confident

2. The word *boycott* as it is used in this passage means

- A. Supporting the separation of white and black passengers.
- B. Refusing to ride the segregated buses.
- C. Always sitting in the front of the bus.
- D. Encouraging all people to ride buses for transportation.

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3. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Rosa Parks played an important role in the civil rights movement.
- B. Rosa Parks was born in Alabama.
- C. Rosa Parks has earned many awards.
- D. Rosa Parks knew Martin Luther King Jr.

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4. What do you think Rosa Parks would be most proud of?

- A. Earning many awards
- B. Helping in the civil rights movement
- C. Being arrested
- D. Living in Detroit

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5. What did the Supreme Court eventually do?

- A. Give Rosa Parks a medal.
- B. Send Rosa Parks to jail.
- C. Outlaw segregation on city buses.
- D. Boycott the bus system.

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On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't												I Really
Like It	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Liked It	
At All												

Inference: In your own words, how did Rosa Parks make a significant impact in the civil rights movement? Support your answer with facts from the passage.