

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks helped change unfair laws in the United States. She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1913. Growing up, she experienced racism and segregation. Segregation meant separating black and white people in places such as schools, restaurants and buses. Black people often received poorer services and fewer opportunities.



As an adult, Rosa worked making and repairing clothes. She also became a civil rights campaigner, working for equal treatment under the law. Long before her famous bus journey, she helped an organisation called the NAACP challenge discrimination and support black people's right to vote.

On 1 December 1955, Rosa boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, after work. She sat in the section where black passengers were allowed to sit. When the seats reserved for white passengers became full, the driver ordered Rosa and other black passengers to move. Rosa refused to give up her seat.

The police arrested her. Rosa's decision was not simply because she felt tired after work: she was tired of being treated unfairly.

Local campaigners organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott. A boycott means refusing to use a service or buy something as a protest. For 381 days, many black residents avoided the buses, walking or sharing car journeys instead. Martin Luther King Jnr helped lead the campaign.

The protest, alongside a court challenge, helped end segregation on Montgomery's buses. This success showed what people could achieve by working together.

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Rosa died in 2005, aged 92. She is remembered for her courage and lifelong commitment to fairness.



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Questions

1. Where and in which year was Rosa Parks born?
2. What did segregation mean?
3. What work did Rosa do to earn a living?
4. What did Rosa help the NAACP campaign for before her famous bus journey?
5. Where was Rosa sitting when the driver ordered her to move?
6. Why was Rosa arrested on 1 December 1955?
7. What is a boycott?
8. How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?
9. Who helped lead the boycott campaign?
10. What happened to segregation on Montgomery's buses after the protest and court challenge?



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Answers

1. She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1913.
2. It meant separating black and white people in places such as schools and buses.
3. She made and repaired clothes.
4. She helped challenge discrimination and support black people's right to vote.
5. She was sitting in the section where black passengers were allowed to sit.
6. She refused to give up her seat when the driver ordered her to move.
7. It means refusing to use a service or buy something as a protest.
8. The boycott lasted 381 days.
9. Martin Luther King Jnr helped lead the campaign.
10. Segregation on Montgomery's buses came to an end.



activist	arrest	boycott	campaign	civil rights	community	courage
discrimination	equality	justice	passenger	peaceful	protest	segregation

1. A person travelling in a vehicle, such as a bus, who is not driving it.
2. The unfair separation of people into different groups because of their race.
3. Unfair treatment of someone because of things such as their skin colour or background.
4. The rights people should have to be treated equally under the law.
5. Someone who takes action to bring about changes they believe are needed.
6. When the police take someone into custody because they suspect that person has broken a law.
7. Refusing to buy something or use a service to show disagreement and ask for change.

8. An action that shows disagreement with something, such as an unfair rule.
9. Acting without violence or trying to hurt others.
10. The strength to face fear, danger or difficulty, even when you feel afraid.
11. The idea that everyone should have the same rights and opportunities.
12. A group of people who live in the same area or share something in common.
13. An organised effort to achieve a goal or make a change.
14. Fair treatment of people, including protecting their rights.



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Timeline Challenge

Rosa Parks was important because she stood up against unfair laws that treated Black people differently because of their skin colour. When she refused to give up her seat on a bus, she helped inspire a large peaceful protest. Her courage became an important part of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA.



Can you put these key events from Rosa's life into chronological order?

Rosa receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the highest awards a person can receive in the USA.	Rosa is born in Alabama, USA. She grows up at a time when unfair laws separate Black and white people.	Rosa dies at the age of 92. People across the USA remember her courage and her work for equal rights.	Rosa joins the NAACP, a group that works for equal rights for Black people. She helps challenge unfair treatment.
Rosa refuses to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. She is arrested for breaking an unfair segregation law.	Rosa and her husband move to Detroit. She continues working for civil rights and helping people in her community.	The Montgomery Bus Boycott begins. Black people avoid the buses for over a year to protest against unfair bus rules.	A court ruling helps end segregation on Montgomery buses. Black and white passengers can now use the buses without the old separation rules.

Link each event with one of the dates below. Use the information to make a timeline.

1913	1943	1955	1955	1956	1957	1996	2005
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