

ROSA PARKS

Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913. She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama. She worked as a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama.



Rosa Parks is called the "mother of the civil rights movement". In the 1950s, the bus system was segregated in many American cities. Blacks and whites could not sit together. Blacks had to sit in the back of the bus. They sometimes had to give their seats to white passengers.

In December of 1955, Rosa Parks was tired. A white passenger wanted her seat. She said no. She was arrested.

There was a boycott of the bus system. A clergyman helped work for the boycott. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr. The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on city buses. Because of Rosa Parks, the bus system was integrated.

Rosa Parks helped teach people about the history of the civil rights struggle. She earned many honors and medals. She is an example of courage and determination.

Rosa Parks died in 2005 at the age of 92.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *ROSA PARKS*

1. Where did Rosa Parks live?
 - a. Washington, D.C.
 - b. Arkansas
 - c. Alabama
 - d. New York

2. What does “segregated” mean?
 - a. off-limits for blacks
 - b. off-limits for whites
 - c. whites and blacks are separated
 - d. standing room only

3. Who worked on the bus boycott?
 - a. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - b. Sojourner Truth
 - c. Frederick Douglass
 - d. Harriet Tubman

4. Why was Rosa Parks called “The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement”?

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT ROSA PARKS

1. What does “integrated” mean?

2. Why did people fight against segregation?

3. What sentence in the text best shows that Rosa Parks set an important example for people?

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to *ROSA PARKS*

Multiple-choice

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. *Answers will vary. Accept answers approximating the following:*
She refused to give her bus seat to a white passenger. This triggered the bus boycott in Montgomery. The bus boycott led the Supreme Court to ban segregation. This was an important turning point for the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks also worked to teach people about civil rights.

Short-answer

1. Integrated means that facilities such as schools, buses, restaurants, etc. are not separated according to race.
2. They wanted equal rights for all races. Segregation discriminated against black people. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. She is an example of courage and determination.