

Rosa Louise Parks

Name _____ Date _____



Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She spent her childhood in Alabama. At the age of 11, she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, which was a private school. 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, who were the majority of the bus riders, 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 often 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. Black passengers were not even allowed to sit across from white passengers.

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 which lasted 381 days. The boycott introduced the country to a clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr. who gained national prominence, leading the protest with the word "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 honours, 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.

Rosa Parks died in 2005 at the age of 92.

Rosa Louise Parks - tasks



Name _____ Date _____

Activity A – Vocabulary

Use your dictionary to find the meaning of the following words:

- segregated
- integrated
- pioneer
- determination
- inspirational
- boycott

Activity B – Read and Discuss

Read the text on Rosa Parks and then discuss the following:

- How would you feel if you were living during the time of segregation?
- How would your life be different if your right to be educated was taken away because of the colour of your skin?

Activity C – Time Line

Use the internet to research Rosa's life and create a time line for Rosa Parks.

Activity D – Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions in FULL sentences

1. Where and when was Rosa Parks born?
2. Where was she educated?
3. What was Rosa Parks' job?
4. What is Rosa Parks most famous for?
5. In 1955 black passengers in Montgomery had to follow certain rules when boarding a bus. What were these rules?
6. How long did the bus boycott last for?
7. What was Martin Luther King Jr. response to the bus protest?
8. How was Rosa Parks honoured for her work?
9. When did Rosa Parks die?
10. Complete this sentence 'Rosa Parks has been called the "mother of"'

Rosa Louise Parks – gap fill



Name _____ Date _____

Complete this without looking back at the text.

Rosa Parks has been called the "mother of the"
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 Blacks, who were the majority of
the bus riders, were required to board the bus at the front, buy their tickets,
and then 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
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Rosa Louise Parks Biography



Name _____ Date _____

Rosa Louise Parks was nationally recognized as the "mother of the modern day civil rights movement" in America. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white male passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, December 1, 1955, triggered a wave of protest December 5, 1955 that reverberated throughout the United States. Her quiet courageous act changed America, its view of black people and redirected the course of history.

Mrs. Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley, February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She was the first child of James and Leona Edwards McCauley. Her brother, Sylvester McCauley, now deceased, was born August 20, 1915. Later, the family moved to Pine Level, Alabama where Rosa was reared and educated in the rural school. When she completed her education in Pine Level at age eleven, her mother, Leona, enrolled her in Montgomery Industrial School for Girls (Miss White's School for Girls), a private institution. After finishing Miss White's School, she went on to Alabama State Teacher's College High School. She, however, was unable to graduate with her class, because of the illness of her grandmother Rose Edwards and later her death.

As Rosa Parks prepared to return to Alabama State Teacher's College, her mother also became ill, therefore, she continued to take care of their home and care for her mother while her brother, Sylvester, worked outside of the home. She received her high school diploma in 1934, after her marriage to Raymond Parks, December 18, 1932. Raymond, now deceased was born in Wedowee, Alabama, Randolph County, February 12, 1903, received little formal education due to racial segregation. He was a self-educated person with the assistance of his mother, Geri Parks. His immaculate dress and his thorough knowledge of domestic affairs and current events made most think he was college educated. He supported and encouraged Rosa's desire to complete her formal education.

Mr. Parks was an early activist in the effort to free the "Scottsboro Boys," a celebrated case in the 1930's. Together, Raymond and Rosa worked in the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP's) programs. He was an active member and she served as secretary and later youth leader of the local branch. At the time of her arrest, she was preparing for a major youth conference.

Rosa Louise Parks Biography



Name _____ Date _____

After the arrest of Rosa Parks, black people of Montgomery and sympathizers of other races organized and promoted a boycott of the city bus line that lasted 381 days. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was appointed the spokesperson for the Bus Boycott and taught nonviolence to all participants. Contingent with the protest in Montgomery, others took shape throughout the south and the country. They took form as sit-ins, eat-ins, swim-ins, and similar causes. Thousands of courageous people joined the "protest" to demand equal rights for all people.

Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1957. In 1964 she became a deaconess in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME).

As a role model for youth she was stimulated by their enthusiasm to learn as much about her life as possible. A modest person, she always encourages them to research the lives of other contributors to world peace. The Institute and The Rosa Parks Legacy are her legacies to people of good will.

Mrs. Parks received more than forty-three honorary doctorate degrees, including one from SOKA UNIVERSITY, Tokyo Japan, hundreds of plaques, certificates, citations, awards and keys to many cities. Among them are the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, the UAW's Social Justice Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Non - Violent Peace Prize and the ROSA PARKS PEACE PRIZE in 1994, Stockholm Sweden, to name a few. In September 1996 President William J. Clinton, the forty second President of the United States of America gave Mrs. Parks the MEDAL OF FREEDOM, the highest award given to a civilian citizen.

Published Act no.28 of 1997 designated the first Monday following February 4, as Mrs Rosa Parks' Day in the state of Michigan, her home state. She is the first living person to be honoured with a holiday.

She was voted by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most Influential people of the 20th century.

A quiet exemplification of courage, dignity, and determination; Rosa Parks was a symbol to all to remain free. Rosa Parks made her peaceful transition October 24, 2005.

Rosa Louise Parks - questions

Name _____ Date _____



Read each question and write or type your answers in full sentences.

1. When was Rosa Louise Parks' born?

2. Where did she complete her education?

3. When and who was she marry?

4. What does NAACP stand for?

5. What position did she serve in the NAACP?

6. Why didn't she give up her seat on the bus?

7. How many days did the bus boycott last?

8. How did President Clinton honour Rosa Parks?

9. What impresses you most about Rosa Parks?

10. Imagine you were living during the time of segregation. Write at least a paragraph on the following. How would you feel? How would living in a segregated society impact on your education, social and family life?

Rosa Louise Parks – Time Line



Name _____ Date _____



Use this following website and the article to help you complete this time line.

<http://www.history-timelines.org.uk/people-timelines/29-rosa-parks-timeline.htm>

Date	Event
1913	Rosa Parks was born 4 th February in Tuskegee Alabama
	Enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School
	Rosa refused to give up her seat on a city bus
	The start of a boycott of the bus system
	Montgomery's public transport system was legally integrated.
	Rosa Parks speaks at the Million Man March in Washington
	She is hospitalized after a fall in her apartment
	The Rosa Parks Learning Centre opens at Botsford Commons, a senior community in Michigan where young people mentor senior citizens on the use of computers
	President Clinton awards Rosa the 250th Congressional Gold Medal of Honour, the highest honour a civilian can receive in the United States
	October 29: Rosa Parks is honoured with the International Institute Heritage Hall of Fame Award
	She is diagnosed with progressive dementia.
	Died at the age.....