

Rosa Parks by Kate Ruttle

Segregation

In the early part of the 20th century, many southern American states had laws that decided where people could go and what they could do, based only on the colour of their skin. This was called segregation.

Rosa Parks is arrested

In 1955, an African American woman called Rosa Parks got the bus home from work. In Montgomery, where she lived, black people were only allowed to sit at the back of buses. Rosa was sitting in the front row of the black section when a white man got on the bus. There were no seats for him in the white section, so the bus driver asked Rosa to move. She refused, so she was arrested and taken to a cell in a police station. She had to pay a fine before she was released.

The Montgomery Bus Protest

After Rosa's arrest, many black people in Montgomery refused to take the bus because they didn't like segregation either. Instead, most African Americans chose to walk, and some bus companies went out of business. Nearly a year later, the American courts decided that black people could sit anywhere on a bus, so the Montgomery bus protest ended.

However, some white people were angry that buses were not segregated anymore, and they threatened the black people who had been part of the protest. Rosa Parks had to move to a different city to protect her family from people who complained that the changes were her fault.

Remembering Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks inspired many African Americans to protest against segregation. Her actions in 1955 were directly linked to the civil rights movement, which campaigned for African American people to be treated fairly.

Before she died, in 2005, Rosa Parks said, "I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free ... so other people would also be free."



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word that means the same as rules.

2 Choose **one**.

Segregation meant that people couldn't do some things if:

they were too tall. ☐

they were left-handed. ☐

they had black skin. ☐

they were female. ☐

3 What was the crime for which Rosa Parks was arrested?

4 **Find and copy one** thing that happened as a result of the Montgomery bus protest.

5 Why do you think Rosa Parks was blamed for the buses no longer being segregated?

6 Number the events in the order that they happened to Rosa Parks.

Rosa was taken to a police station.

Rosa refused to give her seat to a white man.

Rosa moved to a different city.

Rosa had to pay a fine.

2a

☐

1 mark

b

☐

1 mark

2b

☐

1 mark

2b

☐

1 mark

2d

☐

1 mark

2c

☐

1 mark