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Rosa Louise Parks

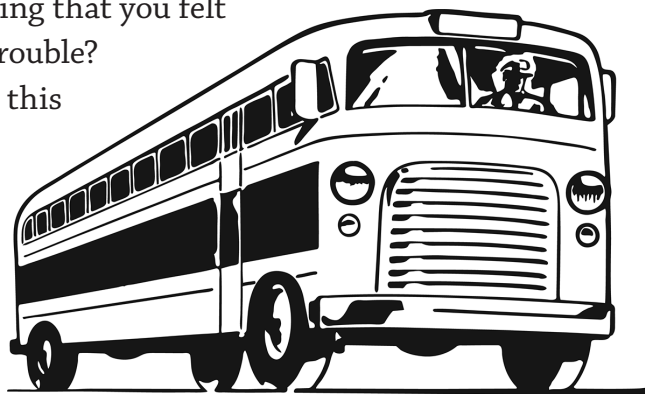
Have you ever spoken out or taken a stand against something that you felt was wrong—even though you knew it might get you into trouble?

That's what Rosa Parks did! How much do you know about this courageous figure in the American civil rights movement?

Answer these questions to find out!

First, go **to www.worldbookonline.com**

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Find It!

Use the World Book Advanced search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about Rosa Louise Parks, it is recommended that you start by searching the key words "Rosa Parks." Choose or write the answer below each question.

1. Why was Parks arrested?

2. African Americans *boycotted* the Montgomery bus system. What does this mean?

3. What does *segregation* mean? (Hint: double-clicking on the word provides a dictionary definition.)

4. What civil rights leader led the boycott?

5. What did Parks's action help start?

6. Which of the following was NOT an award that Parks received:
 - a. Congressional Gold Medal
 - b. Nobel Peace Prize
 - c. Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - d. Spingarn Medal

*Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.

Read the Advanced articles “Civil rights movement” and “Montgomery bus boycott” to answer the following questions.

7. Besides the Montgomery bus boycott, what other event occurred in 1955 that helped launch the civil rights movement in the United States? Describe the event.
8. Did this event occur before or after the Montgomery bus boycott?
9. What was the first organized mass protest by blacks in Southern history?
10. True or false: Only African Americans participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.
11. How did supporters of the boycott get around instead of taking buses?
12. True or false: Parks lost her job as a result of the Montgomery bus boycott.
13. When did a federal court rule that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional?
14. When did the U.S. Supreme Court support that decision?
15. When did the U.S. Supreme Court ruling go into effect?

Use the key words “Rosa Parks” and look at the search results in Advanced. Identify the *biographical* articles (articles about people) in the results to learn about some other notable civil rights figures. Choose or write the correct answer below each question.

16. Who was the first person known to have resisted bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama?
 - a. Claudette Colvin
 - b. Viola Desmond
 - c. Rosa Parks
 - d. Emmett Till
17. When was this person arrested?
18. How old was this person when he or she was arrested?

19. Why do you think black leaders chose Rosa Parks to represent their movement?

Now, go back to the search results for the key words “Rosa Parks” and identify another civil rights figure that fits the description below.

20. Who has been called “the Rosa Parks of Canada”?

21. When was this person arrested?

22. Why was this person arrested?

23. Did this event occur before or after the Montgomery bus boycott?

24. In 2010, the government of Nova Scotia, Canada, granted this person a *free pardon*.
What does this mean?

See It!

Within the Advanced article “Parks, Rosa Louise,” you will find the photo entitled “Rosa Parks in the front of a Montgomery bus.” Read the Advanced article “Parks, Rosa Louise” and study the photo and its caption to answer the following questions.

25. Describe what is happening in the photo.

26. At the time this photo was taken, if the passenger seated behind Parks wanted her seat and Parks refused, could she be arrested?

27. How do you think Parks feels in this photo?

28. If you could sit next to Parks on a bus, what would you like to say to her?

Timeline

29. Use the Advanced articles “Parks, Rosa Louise” and “Montgomery bus boycott” to put the events in the correct order on the timeline below. Include the year or date of each event as indicated.
- Date that Parks was arrested
 - Date that Parks died
 - Year that Parks joined the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - Year that the NAACP awarded Parks the Spingarn Medal
 - Year that Parks was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.
 - Year that Parks’s autobiography was released
 - Date that the federal ruling that segregation on buses was unconstitutional took effect and the Montgomery bus boycott ended
 - Date that Parks was born
 - Year that Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - Year that a statue of Parks was dedicated at Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol
 - Date that the Montgomery bus boycott began

Extension Activity I: Be Persuasive

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional. Pretend you are a U.S. Supreme Court justice making this argument. What would you say to persuade the other justices? What part of the constitution or previous legal decision(s) would you cite to make your case? Write a persuasive letter to the other judges arguing that segregation on city buses is unconstitutional.

Extension Activity 2: Standing Strong

Think about a time when you had to be brave in the face of adversity. Describe what you were up against, and what you did to get your point across. Did you use any of the same tactics used by members of the civil rights movement? Were you able to persuade others to understand your point of view? If so, how did the other people react? If you did not get your way, what would you have done differently in order to get your ideas across?

Want to Read More?

Read more about Rosa Louise Parks in World Book's eBook collection:

Schuldt, Lori Meek. *Martin Luther King, Jr.: with profiles of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela*.

Chicago: World Book, 2013. Biographical Connections. *World eBook*. Web. 19 Oct. 2015.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:978-0-7166-1878-2/detail.do>>.

Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus. Parks was black and the law at the time said that black people must give up their seats on buses to white people.
2. African Americans refused to ride the buses out of protest.
3. *Segregation* means separating people by race.
4. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., led the boycott.
5. Parks's action helped start the civil rights movement in the United States.
6. b. Nobel Peace Prize
7. In August 1955, Emmett Till, an African American teenager from Chicago, was beaten and killed while visiting Mississippi. Two white men were charged with the murder, but they were acquitted by an all-white jury. The men later admitted to the crime.
8. This event happened before the Montgomery bus boycott. Till was killed in August 1955; the Montgomery bus boycott began December 1955.
9. The Montgomery bus boycott was the first organized mass protest by blacks in Southern history.
10. False. Blacks and whites participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.
11. Supporters of the boycott walked, carpooled, or bicycled instead of taking buses.
12. True. Parks lost her job as a result of the Montgomery bus boycott.
13. In June 1956, a federal court ruled that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional.
14. In November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court supported the federal court's decision that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
15. The federal ruling took effect on Dec. 20, 1956.
16. Claudette Colvin was the first person known to have resisted bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama.
17. Colvin was arrested on March 2, 1955.
18. Colvin was 15 when she was arrested.
19. Responses may vary. Reasons include: Black leaders were concerned about using a teenager convicted of assaulting a police officer to represent their movement. Rosa Parks might have been seen as a better person to represent the movement because she was older.
20. Viola Desmond has been called "the Rosa Parks of Canada."
21. Desmond was arrested on Nov. 8, 1946.
22. Desmond was arrested for refusing to move to a section reserved for blacks in a theater in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.
23. This event happened before the Montgomery bus boycott. Desmond was arrested in November 1946; the Montgomery bus boycott began in December 1955.
24. A *free pardon* admits a conviction was in error.

25. Rosa Parks is sitting at the front of a bus. A white passenger is seated behind her.
26. No, Parks could not be arrested for refusing to give up her seat to the white passenger at the time this photo was taken. The caption indicates that the photo was taken soon after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional. This means Parks could sit in any seat she wished on the bus and did not have to give up her seat to a white passenger who might want it.
27. Answers will vary.
28. Answers will vary.
29. Timeline

h. Parks was born on Feb. 4, 1913.
c. Parks joined the Montgomery Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1943.
a. Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955.
k. The Montgomery bus boycott began on Dec. 5, 1955.
g. On Dec. 20, 1956, the federal ruling that segregation on buses was unconstitutional took effect and the Montgomery bus boycott ended.
d. Parks was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1979.
f. Parks wrote an autobiography, <i>Rosa Parks: My Story</i> , in 1992.
i. Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996.
e. Parks was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.
b. Parks died on Oct. 24, 2005.
j. A statue of Parks was dedicated at Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol in 2013.

Extension Activity 1: Be Persuasive

Answers will vary. Students may cite the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which requires that all citizens be treated equally. Students may also compare the 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

Extension Activity 2: Standing Strong

Answers will vary.