

Name: _____

Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks helped change the laws in the United States. Her actions played an important part in the country's civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks was a Black woman born in 1913 in Alabama. At that time there were laws segregating Black and white people. Segregating means keeping them apart.

Rosa Parks went to a school with all African American students. White and Black people were forced to go to different schools. After she got her high school diploma, she helped her family earn money by working as a seamstress in a department store.

Rosa Parks became famous when she was sitting on a bus and refused to give up her seat to a white man. There was a law in Alabama that said Black people had to leave their seat on a bus if a white person wanted to sit down. She believed she had dignity and white people were not better than her because she was Black.

Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat on December 1, 1955. She still felt she did the right thing. After that, African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. They also held many peaceful protests. Martin Luther King, Jr., also helped in the protests.



Rosa Parks believed everyone should be treated equally and refused to give up her seat on the bus.

A year later, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal. Black people did not have to give up their seats to white people on buses.

Rosa Parks is considered a hero today because she believed everyone should be treated equally. She was honored in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, who gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a citizen can receive.

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1. Which is an example of segregation?
 - a. Black and white people could not go to the same schools.
 - b. Black people had to give up their seats for white people.
 - c. Black people could not use the same water fountains as white people.
 - d. All of the above.
2. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
 - a. to inform the reader about different types of segregation
 - b. to persuade readers that segregation is wrong
 - c. to inform the reader about how Rosa Parks played an important role in the civil rights movement
 - d. to tell an entertaining story about why Rosa Parks earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom

3. What happened when Rosa didn't give up her seat?

4. Reread the following sentences from the article:

After that, African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. They also held many peaceful protests.

What is the best definition for the word boycott? Use clues from the sentences to help you.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| a. to refuse to use something | c. to separate |
| b. to complain about something | d. illegal |

5. What happened after the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal?

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the article.
Then write the full word on the line.
Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. s _ _ g _ _ g _ _ t _ _ n 1. _____
clue: the practice of keeping people of different races separate from each other
2. b _ _ y _ _ t t 2. _____
clue: to refuse to buy, use, or participate in something
3. d _ _ g n _ _ y 3. _____
clue: being worthy of respect
4. f _ _ m _ _ s 4. _____
clue: known or recognized by many people
5. r _ _ f _ _ s _ _ d 5. _____
clue: having said or shown that you will not do something
6. _ _ l l e _ _ l 6. _____
clue: not allowed by the law
7. p _ _ t _ _ s t 7. _____
clue: to show or express strong disagreement with something
8. h _ _ n _ _ r 8. _____
clue: an award

ANSWER KEY

Rosa Parks



1. Which is an example of segregation?

- a. Black and white people could not go to the same schools.
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d. All of the above.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a. to inform the reader about different types of segregation
- b. to persuade readers that segregation is wrong

c. to inform the reader about how Rosa Parks played an important role in the civil rights movement

- d. to tell an entertaining story about why Rosa Parks earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom

3. What happened when Rosa didn't give up her seat?

Answers will vary. An example is: Rosa Parks was arrested after she didn't give up her seat.

4. Reread the following sentences from the article:

After that, African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. They also held many peaceful protests.

What is the best definition for the word boycott? Use clues from the sentences to help you.

a. to refuse to use something

b. to complain about something

c. to separate

d. illegal

5. What happened after the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal?

Answers will vary. An example is: After the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was illegal, Black people did not have to give up their seats on buses anymore.

ANSWER KEY

Rosa Parks



Fill in the missing letters to create words from the article.
Then write the full word on the line.
Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. s e g r e g a t i o n

1. segregation

clue: the practice of keeping people of different races separate from each other

2. b o y c o t t

2. boycott

clue: to refuse to buy, use, or participate in something

3. d i g n i t y

3. dignity

clue: being worthy of respect

4. f a m o u s

4. famous

clue: known or recognized by many people

5. r e f u s e d

5. refused

clue: having said or shown that you will not do something

6. i l l e g a l

6. illegal

clue: not allowed by the law

7. p r o t e s t

7. protest

clue: to show or express strong disagreement with something

8. h o n o r

8. honor

clue: an award