

Rosa Parks: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement



Write On
Grade 5

Learner Expectation

- **Content Standard: 6.0**
- Personal development and identity are shaped by factors including culture, groups, and institutions. Central to this development are exploration, identification, and analysis of how individuals, and groups work independently and cooperatively.
- **Learning Expectations:**
- *6.01 Recognize the impact of individual and group decisions on citizens and communities in a democratic republic.*
- *6.02 Understand how groups can impact change at the local, state, and national level.*

In this activity you will:

- Learn about Rosa Parks and how she changed America forever through a simple act of protest.



Who was Rosa Parks?

- Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama to James McCauley and Leona McCauley.
- At the age of two, Parks, her brother, and her mother moved to Pine Level, Alabama to live with her grandparents.

Who was Rosa Parks?

- **At the age of eleven, she began attending the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, which was funded by liberal northern women.**
- **She later began attending Alabama State Teachers College.**

More about Rosa Parks

- Upon completing Teaching College, she moved with her husband, Raymond Parks, to Montgomery.
- Parks and her husband joined the local chapter of the NAACP. She acted as the secretary from 1943 to 1956. She also worked to help improve conditions for African Americans.
- *(NAACP) = National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*

How and What did Rosa protest?

- **On December 1, 1955, forty-three year old Rosa Parks boarded a Montgomery, Alabama city bus after finishing work as a tailor's assistant at the Montgomery Fair department store.**



How and What did Rosa protest?

- **As all black patrons were required to do, she paid her fair at the front of the bus and then re-boarded in the rear.**



How and What did Rosa protest?

- **The bus became crowded and Rosa was ordered by the bus driver to give up her seat to a white passenger.**
- **Rosa Parks remained in her seat. The bus driver again asked her to move, but she refused.**

Mrs. Parks' arrest and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

- The bus driver called the police and Parks was arrested for *refusing to yield her seat to a white patron*.
- Mrs. Parks was found guilty of disorderly conduct and that led directly to the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, which eventually led to the desegregation of buses throughout the United States. This ushered in a new era of the civil rights movement.

Supreme Court Decision

- **On December 21, 1956, in Montgomery, Alabama, the Supreme Court ruled in Rosa Parks' favor, *banning segregation on city public transit vehicles.***



Rosa after the protest:

- Parks later served on staff for United States Representative, John Conyers of Michigan from 1965 to 1988 when she retired.
- In 1979, Parks won the Spingarn Medal for her civil rights work.
- In 1999, she was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the highest honor a civilian can receive in the United States.

Writing Activity



- Many people consider Rosa Parks a leader. What does it mean to be a leader? How are leaders important in our world?
- Who has been an important leader in your life? What are three lessons you have learned from this person's life?