


## Bronze reading:



# Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was a Black woman who played an important part in making positive changes for Black people in American society.

### Early Life

Rosa Parks was born on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1913.

She was raised on a farm in a city called Montgomery in the USA.

Rosa Parks grew up at a time when Black people and other People of Colour did not have the same rights as White people.

### Segregation in America

When Rosa Parks was growing up, the laws in many American states meant that Black people were not allowed to use the same public places as White people, such as schools, transport, toilets and restaurants. This was called 'segregation'. They also made it difficult for Black people to vote. Many White people did not respect Black people and treated them unfairly.

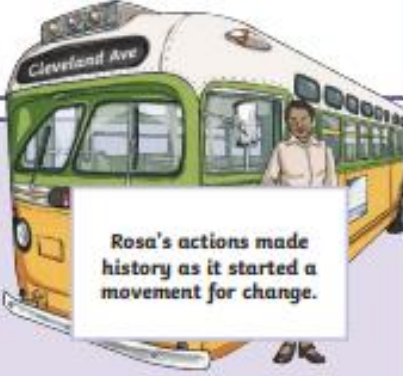
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### The Bus Ride

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1955, Rosa Parks was on the bus on her way home from work. She was sitting in the area for Black people. However, the rule was that if the White area was full, a Black person must give up their seat for a White person. On this day, the White area was full, so Rosa was told to move but she refused. The driver threatened to call the police, but Rosa still didn't move. Eventually, the police came and arrested her, and she had to pay a fine.

### What Happened Next?

What Rosa did on that day started a big movement. 40,000 Black people in the area (and some White people) refused to use the buses until they were treated fairly – this was called The Montgomery Bus Boycott. The boycott went on for 381 days before the government finally lifted the segregation on buses.



Rosa's actions made history as it started a movement for change.

**Boycott** – Refusing to use, buy or deal with a person, organisation, or country as a way of protest.

### Did You Know...?

The 4<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> December (Rosa's birthday and the date she was arrested) are now known as 'Rosa Parks' memorial days' and are celebrated in some states of the USA.

1. When was Rosa Parks born? Tick one.

- 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1913
- 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1914
- 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1813
- 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1913

2. Tick all the public places where Black and White people had to stay apart when Rosa was growing up in the USA?

- schools
- transport
- toilets
- restaurants

3. Tick whether the statements are true or false.

	True	False
Rosa grew up at a time when Black people and other People of Colour did not have the same rights as White people.		
Rosa Parks was on the bus on her way to work when she refused to give up her seat.		
The bus boycott went on for 381 days.		

4. Look at the paragraph, **Segregation in America** and find and copy a word for that means 'treating or thinking about someone politely and kindly'.

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5. What was the name of the movement where people stopped using the buses?

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6. Draw **three** lines to match each word with the correct meaning.

segregation

boycott

Montgomery

Refusing to use, buy or deal with a person, organisation, or country as a way of protest.

A city in the USA.

The law in many American states separating Black and White people so that they were not allowed to use the same public places.