Name: _____ Date: _____

ROSA PARKS



Read the biographical passage about Rosa Parks and answer the questions.

Rosa Parks (1913 – 2005) was an African American civil rights activist whose refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, Parks grew up in an era of rampant racial segregation and discrimination. Parks was a seamstress and a long-time member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Her act of defiance on December 1, 1955, was not a spontaneous gesture but a planned act of civil disobedience. She was arrested and fined, but her action became a powerful symbol in the fight against racial injustice.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, triggered by her arrest, lasted for over a year and was a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. It led to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional. Parks' quiet strength and moral courage continued to inspire the movement, earning her the nickname "the mother of the civil rights movement."

After the boycott, Parks faced harassment and threats in Montgomery. She moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she continued to be active in the struggle for justice and equality until her death in 2005. Her legacy as an icon of the Civil Rights Movement lives on, symbolizing the power of individual action in the fight for equality and justice.

Use the Village

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What was Rosa Parks' early life like, and what was her profession?

2 What was the significant action Rosa Parks took in 1955, and why was it important?

3 Why is Rosa Parks considered a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement?

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