

Reading Comprehension: Rosa Parks – A Champion of Civil Rights



Rosa Parks is often called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" because of her brave actions on December 1, 1955. On that day, in Montgomery, Alabama, she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus. At the time, racial segregation laws required African Americans to sit at the back of buses and give up their seats if white passengers needed them. Parks' refusal to obey these unjust laws led to her arrest.

Her arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a protest that lasted for over a year. African Americans in Montgomery refused to ride public buses until segregation laws were changed. The boycott was led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and gained national attention. In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional, marking a significant victory for the Civil Rights Movement.

Rosa Parks had been an active member of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) even before her famous arrest. She continued to work for equality throughout her life, inspiring people to stand up against racial injustice. For her contributions, she received many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. Rosa Parks passed away in 2005, but her legacy continues to inspire people around the world.

Comprehension Questions:

Short Answer:

1. Why did Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat on the bus?
2. How did Rosa Parks' arrest contribute to the Civil Rights Movement?
3. What was the impact of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
4. Besides the bus boycott, in what other ways did Rosa Parks contribute to the fight for civil rights?
5. How is Rosa Parks remembered today?

True, False, or Not Mentioned:

1. Rosa Parks was physically removed from the bus by the police.
2. Rosa Parks' actions directly led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. Rosa Parks was tired from work when she refused to give up her seat.
4. Rosa Parks' legacy continues to be honored today with public recognition.

Multiple Choice:

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| 1. What is Rosa Parks best known for? | 2. Where did Rosa Parks' arrest take place? |
| a) Leading the March on Washington | a) Atlanta, Georgia |
| b) Refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus | b) Montgomery, Alabama |
| c) Becoming the first African American mayor of Montgomery | c) New Orleans, Louisiana |
| d) Writing the Civil Rights Act | d) Birmingham, Alabama |

3. What was the result of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
 - a) The boycott was unsuccessful
 - b) Parks was elected as a government leader
 - c) The Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional
 - d) Montgomery banned African Americans from buses
4. Which civil rights leader helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
 - a) Malcolm X
 - b) Frederick Douglass
 - c) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - d) Harriet Tubman
5. How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?
 - a) One week
 - b) One month
 - c) Over a year
 - d) Five years
6. What was Rosa Parks' role in the NAACP before her arrest?
 - a) She was the president
 - b) She was an activist
 - c) She was a lawyer
 - d) She was not involved in the NAACP
7. What was one result of the Supreme Court ruling in 1956?
 - a) Rosa Parks became the mayor of Montgomery
 - b) Bus segregation was declared unconstitutional
 - c) The Civil Rights Movement ended
 - d) Segregation on buses became stricter
8. Why was Rosa Parks' act of defiance so significant?
 - a) She was the first person to refuse to give up a seat
 - b) It sparked a major protest against racial segregation
 - c) It led directly to the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - d) It helped her become rich and famous
9. What major award did Rosa Parks receive in 1996?
 - a) The Nobel Peace Prize
 - b) The Pulitzer Prize
 - c) The Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - d) The Congressional Medal of Honor