

Name : _____

Rosa Parks

by Katie Clark

Rosa Parks was a Civil Rights icon and a defender of racial equality. She is a picture of heroism, bravery, and perseverance. While it took years for some people to see this, many others loved her from the very beginning of her heroic journey.



Rosa was born in Alabama in 1913. She was raised by her mother and grandparents. Both of her grandparents had been slaves, and they taught Rosa about freedom. They taught her the importance of equal rights for all people no matter their color.

In the days of Rosa's childhood and young adult years, all people were not treated equally. They were often separated by their color, and some were given more rights than others.

When Rosa became an adult, she worked at a department store in Montgomery, Alabama. One night when she left her job, she took a city bus home. She sat in the back of the bus because that was the designated place for African American people to sit.

While she rode, something terrible happened. The bus driver stopped the bus. He said there wasn't enough room for all the white passengers to sit, so some of the African American passengers needed to give up their seats for them. The driver asked Rosa to get up.

Rosa said no. She was in the seat that was designated for her, and she would not give it up. She believed she had as much right to sit as anyone else.

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The bus driver called the police and had Rosa arrested. She was taken to jail and had to go to trial, but her arrest started a great movement for the better treatment of all people. It was called the Civil Rights movement, and though it was eventually led by Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa helped jumpstart the movement.

Rosa helped bring more rights to all people. She spent the rest of her life on this mission, and she was honored greatly for it. In 1996, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1997, she received the Congressional Gold Medal. Rosa also received other awards and honors, and she even had parks and monuments named after her.

Rosa died in 2005, but her legacy lives on. She is well remembered for standing up for the rights of all people. She is an American hero and is still loved by many people today.

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1) Describe in your own words what this article is about.

2) Why do you think Rosa's grandparents taught her about equal rights for all people?

3) Describe what happened to Rosa the night she was arrested on the bus. Why is this incident important?

4) "Rosa died in 2005, but her legacy lives on". Based on its use in this sentence, what do you think the word legacy means?

5) Mention the accomplishments of Rosa Parks.

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1) Describe in your own words what this article is about.

Answers may vary.

2) Why do you think Rosa’s grandparents taught her about equal rights for all people?

Having suffered in slavery themselves, they perhaps wanted Rosa to

understand the significance of freedom and dignity.

3) Describe what happened to Rosa the night she was arrested on the bus. Why is this incident important?

That night, Rosa refused to give up her seat for a white passenger as she firmly

believed that she has much right to sit, as anyone else. Her arrest set in motion

one of the largest social movement in history; the civil rights movement.

4) “Rosa died in 2005, but her legacy lives on”. Based on its use in this sentence, what do you think the word legacy means?

It means something that is a part of one’s history that is left to or for others.

5) Mention the accomplishments of Rosa Parks.

She helped jump-start the civil rights movement and dedicated her life to the

cause of achieving equal rights for all people.
