

# Black History Month

## ROSA PARKS



### ROSA PARKS

Rosa Parks, born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, was a civil rights activist. She is best known for her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus to a white passenger in 1955, an act that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the American Civil Rights Movement.

**EARLY LIFE:** Rosa attended a local African American school, which had limited supplies. Walking to school daily, she carried books as white children rode buses to well-equipped schools. Rosa's education was interrupted when she had to work for her sick grandmother, but she aspired to return and earn her diploma.

**AGE AND CIVIL RIGHTS:** While working as a housekeeper, Rosa met Martin Luther King Jr. They married in 1932, and Rosa earned a school diploma in 1933. Rosa's husband's advocacy for civil rights influenced Rosa to join him in the fight against segregation in Montgomery, Alabama.

**CHALLENGES:** Rosa faced discrimination with facilities, schools, and even drinking water. She, like many African Americans, was being forced to sit in the back of the bus. She became a member of the NAACP to fight for her rights.

Rosa Parks and her husband, Raymond Parks, decided to take a stand against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rosa made history as the first African American woman to join the NAACP's Montgomery chapter, where she assumed the role of secretary.

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and promote equal treatment for all. The commitment to the cause continued as Rosa Parks played a key role in encouraging African American students to join the Freedom Riders. Despite facing opposition, Rosa's infant was clean and healthy. Rosa's infant was clean and healthy. Rosa's infant was clean and healthy.



Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. She was fined \$10 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. Her arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for 381 days and ended in victory for the African American community.



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### ROSA PARKS

#### Comprehension Questions

1. What was Rosa Parks' occupation?  
a. Housekeeper  
b. Teacher  
c. Nurse  
d. Doctor

2. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?  
a. For not giving up her seat to a white passenger  
b. For being late to work  
c. For talking back to her boss  
d. For not wearing a uniform

3. What was the result of Rosa Parks' arrest?  
a. The Montgomery Bus Boycott  
b. A new law was passed  
c. Rosa Parks was released  
d. The bus company was closed

4. What was Rosa Parks' role in the Civil Rights Movement?  
a. She was a leader  
b. She was a supporter  
c. She was a participant  
d. She was an observer

**NO-PREP & EDITABLE**

# READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

# Ready to Print & Editable



## ROSA PARKS

### EARLY LIFE:

Rosa Louise McCauley, born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, faced life's challenges from a young age. Her parents separated when she was two, and she, along with her mother and brother, moved to her grandparents' home in Montgomery, Alabama.

and promote equal treatment for all.

This commitment to the cause continued as Rosa Parks played a key role in encouraging African American students to join the Freedom Riders. Despite facing opposition in Montgomery, Rosa's intent was clear: to demonstrate that everyone should be treated equally. Road's involvement with the NAACP not only marked her personal dedication to the fight against segregation but also laid the groundwork for her historic stance on December 1, 1955, when she refused to surrender her bus seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

### ARREST

The turning point in Rosa Parks' life came on December 1, 1955, when her ordinary bus ride transformed into an act of extraordinary defiance. After a tiring day as a seamstress, Rosa settled into a seat in the African American section of the bus, situated right behind the designated area for white passengers. As the bus filled, and all seats in the white section were occupied, the bus driver, James F. Blake, demanded that Rosa and three other African American women vacate their seats for a white man. While the others reluctantly complied, Rosa, fueled by a quiet determination, refused to yield. Her act of resistance led to her arrest, and she was subsequently taken to City Hall, where she underwent indignities of fingerprinting and photography, all for violating segregation laws. Rosa's arrest was not the first act of resistance against bus segregation, but it became a catalyst, setting in motion a series of events that would redefine the course of history. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, a significant chapter in the struggle for civil rights, emerged as a symbol of resistance, inspiring a community and sparking a nationwide movement for racial equality.

### BOYCOTT:

The spark that ignited the Montgomery Bus Boycott occurred on December 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to yield her bus seat to a white man. This act of defiance led to her arrest, prompting the African American community to rally and organize a boycott against the city's bus system. Encouraged by fellow members to abstain from riding the bus, they endured inconveniences, discrimination, and violence for an impressive 381 days. Their perseverance and unity prevailed when, on December 20, 1956, the US Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation laws unconstitutional, marking a significant victory in the fight for civil rights.



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### BACKLASH AND MOVE TO DETROIT:

Facing threats and job loss, Rosa and her husband moved to Detroit in 1957. Despite challenges, Rosa continued her civil rights advocacy, attending meetings and becoming a symbol for African Americans fighting for equality.

### LEGACY AND RECOGNITIONS:

Rosa Parks' impactive legacy extends beyond her pivotal role in the civil rights movement. In 1987, the President and Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development was established, a testament to her commitment to empowering individuals and fostering self-development within communities. This institute stands as a living tribute to her enduring influence on the pursuit of equality and justice.

Rosa Parks received significant national recognition for her contributions to civil rights. In 1989, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and designated the Rosa Parks National Day of Freedom. Subsequently, in 1995, she was posthumously bestowed with the Congressional Gold Medal, further solidifying her place in American history.

Her autobiography, "Rosa Parks: My Story," published in 1982, provides valuable insights into her life and the challenges that shaped the age of az. Rosa Parks passed away in 2005 at the age of 92, leaving behind a lasting legacy as the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement." Her bravery and tireless fight for equality continue to inspire generations, serving as a powerful reminder of the impact that one individual can have in the pursuit of justice and social change.



## READING COMPREHENSION

### COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ROSA PARKS

## Comprehension Questions

**DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.**

1. When was Rosa Parks born?

- a. February 4, 1912
- b. February 4, 1913
- c. March 4, 1913
- d. March 4, 1912

2. Where did Rosa Parks move with her mother and brother after her parents' separation?

- a. Montgomery, Alabama
- b. Pine Level, Alabama
- c. Tuskegee, Alabama
- d. Detroit, Michigan

3. What interrupted Rosa's high school education?

- a. Racism
- b. Sick grandmother
- c. Lack of supplies
- d. School closure

4. What

a. Rosa Parks' arrest  
b. protests  
c. ruling  
d. movements

5. Montgomery Bus Boycott last?

6. Parks move with her husband after facing job

loss in  
Alabama  
Tuskegee  
Alabama

7. Which prestigious medals did Rosa Parks receive for her civil rights?

a. Pulitzer Prize  
b. National Medal of Freedom and Nobel Prize  
c. Presidential Medal of Honor  
d. Congressional Medal of Honor

**SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe Rosa Parks' early life and the challenges she faced during her childhood.

2. Explain the significance of Rosa Parks' arrest on December 1, 1955, for the African American community.

3. Discuss the strategies employed during the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the challenges faced by the African American community.

4. Analyze the repercussions Rosa Parks and her husband faced, including job loss and relocation, after the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

5. Evaluate Rosa Parks' legacy and her continued involvement in civil rights after the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

## Answers Key

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. When was Rosa Parks born?  
- Correct Answer: b. February 4, 1913
2. Where did Rosa Parks move with her mother and brother after her parents' separation?  
- Correct Answer: b. Pine Level, Alabama
3. What interrupted Rosa's high school education?  
- Correct Answer: b. Sick grandmother
4. Who did Rosa Parks marry in 1932?  
- Correct Answer: b. Raymond Parks
5. Where did Rosa Parks work as a housekeeper in 1931?  
- Correct Answer: c. Montgomery, Alabama
6. In which city did the Montgomery Bus Boycott take place?  
- Correct Answer: c. Montgomery
7. What prompted the Montgomery Bus Boycott?  
- Correct Answer: a. Rosa Parks' arrest
8. How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?  
- Correct Answer: c. 381 days
9. Where did Rosa Parks move with her husband after facing job loss in Alabama?  
- Correct Answer: c. Detroit, Michigan
10. Which prestigious medals did Rosa Parks receive for her contributions to civil rights?  
- Correct Answer: c. Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Medal of Honor

### OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:

1. Describe Rosa Parks' early life and the challenges she faced during her school days.  
- Answer: Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. After her parents' separation, she moved to Pine Level,

take place in 1931?

off take place?

MCQ'S &  
QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY  
INCLUDED

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**NO-PREP !**

**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



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**EDITABLE**

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