

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

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The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a 381-day protest against racial segregation on the city's public transit system. It began on December 1, 1955, after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus.



BACKGROUND

Montgomery, Alabama, was a segregated city. African American citizens were required to sit in the back of the bus. In 1955, Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old African American woman, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus. She was arrested for this act of defiance.

BOYCOTT

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the boycott. He organized a group of African American leaders to plan the protest. The boycott was successful because the city's bus system was heavily dependent on African American passengers. The boycott lasted 381 days, and the city eventually agreed to desegregate the bus system.



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QUESTIONS

1. What was the cause of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
2. How long did the boycott last?
3. Who led the boycott?

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READING COMPREHENSION

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MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a significant event during the African American Civil Rights Movement in the United States, proving that peaceful protests could bring about positive change to protect the equal rights of all people.



BACKGROUND

After the Civil War, segregation between race was widespread in the American South. In 1896, the Plessy v. Ferguson court case challenged segregation and the Supreme Court ruled that separate facilities for African Americans and whites were legal as long as they were equal, though the African American facilities were of far inferior quality (separate schools, restaurants, water fountains, accommodations, as well as public transportation such as buses and trains, were segregated). African Americans were relegated to the back of the buses.

ROSA PARKS

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American seamstress and civil rights activist, boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The front seat seats were reserved for white passengers, and African American passengers sat in the back. Parks, after boarding through the back door, sat just behind the white section. When the white section filled up, the bus driver, James D. Blake, demanded that Parks and three other passengers move into the other section. Parks refused, and the driver refused to give up her seat, set off a chain of events.



ONE-DAY BOYCOTT

News of Parks' arrest spread quickly, leading to thousands of boycotting Montgomery buses on the day of her trial. On December 5, about 400 of African Americans boycotted the buses, and Parks was found guilty and fined \$4. The movement continued until the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) was formed to lead the boycott, demanding an end to bus segregation.



BOYCOTT CONTINUES

The boycott persisted for 381 days, with nearly 65,000 African Americans gathering at the First Central Baptist Church of the First Five. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a powerful speech, and the MIA voted to continue the boycott until bus segregation ended. The demand initially subsided but failed to move for white passengers switching African American drivers, but the bus company relented.

SACRIFICES

The boycott led to sacrifices, including Parks losing her job, her husband lost rights, and various forms of harassment against boycotters. Martin Luther King Jr. experienced arrest, and even a bombing of his home. Despite the challenges, the boycott persisted.

IMPACT

The court case *Bridges v. Walker*, on June 5, 1956, ruled that segregation was illegal, and the Supreme Court's decision overturned the Montgomery bus segregation. Parks, with Martin Luther King Jr. being the first desegregated bus. The event marked the beginning of a significant phase in the civil rights movement.



READING COMPREHENSION

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Name: _____

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MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Comprehension Questions

Directions: Choose the right answer.

1. What event proved that peaceful protest could result in change to protect the equal rights of all people?
a) Brown v. Board of Education
b) Rosa Parks' arrest
c) Plessy v. Ferguson
d) Broder v. Galt
2. In which city did the Montgomery Bus Boycott take place?
a) Atlanta
b) Birmingham
c) Montgomery
d) Selma
3. In the background section, what court case challenged segregation in 1954?
a) Brown v. Board of Education
b) Plessy v. Ferguson
c) Broder v. Galt
d) Montgomery Improvement Association v. State
4. What did the Supreme Court rule in the Plessy v. Ferguson case?
a) Segregation was legal.
b) Separate facilities for African Americans and whites were legal as long as they were equal.
c) All facilities must be integrated.
d) African American facilities should be superior to white facilities.
5. On which date did Rosa Parks refuse to give up her bus seat?
a) December 1, 1954
b) December 1, 1955
c) December 5, 1955
d) December 5, 1954
6. Who was the bus driver on the day of Rosa Parks' arrest?
a) Martin Luther King Jr.
b) EDD Neal
c) James F. Smith
d) Broder v. Galt

7. How did Rosa Parks respond when asked to move from her seat on the bus?
a) She moved immediately.
b) She remained seated.
c) She argued with the bus driver.
d) She left the bus voluntarily.

8. What percentage of African Americans boycotted the buses in Montgomery on the day of Parks' trial?
a) 75%
b) 70%
c) 90%
d) 60%

9. What organization was formed to manage and lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
a) Civil Rights Movement Organization (CRMO)
b) Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA)
c) African American Rights Group (AARG)
d) Bus Equality Action (BEA)

10. When did the court case Broder v. Galt find bus segregation legal?
a) June 5, 1955
b) June 5, 1954
c) November 5, 1955
d) November 5, 1954

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Rosa Parks, and what role did she play in the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
2. Describe the conditions of segregation that African Americans faced in public places and transportation, as mentioned in the passage.
3. What event led to the initiation of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and how did the African American community respond to it?
4. What sacrifices did individuals, such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., make during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and what challenges did they face?
5. How did the Montgomery Bus Boycott ultimately lead to the end of bus segregation, and what role did court cases play in the process?

Answers Key

1. What event proved that peaceful protest could result in change to protect the equal rights of all people?

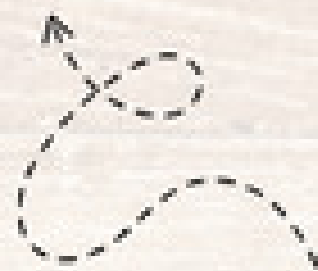
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- d) Montgomery Improvement Association v. State



10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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