



1991 Freedom Award
National Recipient
Rosa Parks



PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Biography

Most historians mark the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement as December 1, 1955 when seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. She was arrested and fined, leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The boycott was led by Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It lasted 382 days. Ms. Parks simple gesture of protest served to galvanize the nation’s civil rights revolution.

What was Ms. Parks’ profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Receptionist
- B. Philanthropist
- C. Tailor
- D. Activist

Answers:
C & D - Ms. Parks was an activist and a Tailor.

Vocabulary

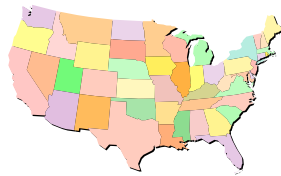
Activist: A person who practices direct action to effect changes in social conditions and governments

Boycott: To engage in a concerted refusal to have dealings with in order to express disapproval or force acceptance of certain conditions

Name two people (aside from Rosa Parks) who you think are **Activists**:



1.



2.



3.



4.

Can you identify the images above?

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Answers:
1 World Map 2 United States 3 Alabama 4 Alabama state flag



1991 Freedom Award
National Recipient
Rosa Parks



POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

Transportation has always been a hot spot for civil rights protests. In the 1890s, the Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* legalized segregation under the principle of “separate but equal.” This court case arose as an effort to challenge segregation on trains. The court had previously ruled that the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteeing protection of the rights of all citizens applied only to government policies and could not be applied to the actions of individual citizens.



The Civil Rights Movement continued to use transportation as a way to break racial barriers. The Freedom Rides on Southern interstate buses are another example. Students in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized the rides in 1961 to test a ruling the previous year that outlawed segregation in interstate facilities. The protests were meant to provoke federal intervention. Mob violence, bombings, and mass arrests met the demonstrators as they rode into the Jim Crow South. Activists were challenged to stick to their doctrine of non-violent resistance.



Can you name some other events organized by SNCC during the civil rights era struggles? What role did students play in the Civil Rights Movement?

New Vocabulary:

Unconstitutional: Illegal due to being a direct violation of the nation’s constitution

Use this word in a sentence about the civil rights movement.

Why was it important for the federal government to intervene in the state and local governments of the segregated South? Can you think of other examples during the Civil Rights Movement when federal authority was used to fight racial inequality?
