

Historical Heroes: Rosa Parks



In 1955 in Alabama, there were rules about where people could sit on buses. White people could sit anywhere they wanted. African Americans had to sit at the back of the bus. Many people did not think this rule was fair.

One woman, Rosa Parks, chose not to follow the rule one day. She was tired after a long day at work. The bus driver ordered her to give up her seat to a white passenger. She refused. Rosa Parks did not follow the driver's directions. She was arrested and taken to jail.

Other African Americans had also been brave when they refused to give up their seats on a bus. But this time, people started to pay attention. The Montgomery Bus Boycott began. This boycott helped end segregation on buses. This meant that all people could sit anywhere they wanted.

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use text evidence to support your answers.

1. Until the boycott, African Americans in Alabama had to sit at the _____ back _____ of the bus.

2. Why was Rosa Parks told to give up her seat on the bus?

Rosa Parks was told to give up her seat on the bus because the law said that white people could sit anywhere they wanted, but African Americans had to sit at the back of the bus.

3. When did Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat?

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in 1955.

4. Why was Rosa Parks arrested and taken to jail?

Rosa Parks was arrested and taken to jail because she did not follow the law.

5. How did Rosa Parks help other people?

Rosa Parks helped other people because she was brave. She did something that eventually helped change the law and gave African American people more rights.