

Name:

Date:

Class:

Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Instructions: Examine the picture and read the background information. Answer the questions.



Background: In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, refused to obey the bus driver's order that she give up her seat in the colored section to a white passenger, after the white section was filled. Parks was using peaceful civil disobedience to protest against the unjust segregation laws in Alabama. Parks' resistance became a vital symbol for the Civil Rights Movement, the movement to challenge racism and ensure all Americans had their Constitutional rights protected. Civil Rights advocate and pastor, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., helped to organize a boycott of the bussing system in Montgomery to stand against the injustice of segregation. King called on all who supported Parks to stop using the bussing system and to cease spending money to ride the busses. King wanted to use this non-violent protest tactic to raise awareness about the injustices of the bussing system in particular and segregation in general. In 1956, partially due to the efforts of King and Parks, the bussing system in Montgomery was fully integrated and no longer segregated. Pictured above you see Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

1. How did Rosa Parks impact the Civil Rights Movement?

2. What role did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have in responding to the way Rosa Parks was treated in Montgomery?

3. Why do you think the tactics of King, Parks, and others were successful? Why did the city of Montgomery eventually transition away from segregation and implement integration?

Answers:

1. How did Rosa Parks impact the Civil Rights movement?

In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, refused to obey the bus driver's order that she give up her seat in the colored section to a white passenger, after the white section was filled. Parks was using peaceful civil disobedience to protest against the unjust segregation laws in Alabama. Parks' act of defiance became a vital symbol for the Civil Rights Movement.

2. What role did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have in responding to the way Rosa Parks was treated in Montgomery?

Civil Rights advocate and pastor, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., helped to organize a boycott of the bussing system in Montgomery to stand against the injustice of segregation. This meant that all who supported Parks were called upon to stop using the bussing system and to cease spending money to ride the bus.

3. Why do you think the tactics of King, Parks, and others were successful? Why did the city of Montgomery eventually transition away from segregation and implement integration?

King and Parks had devised a plan that negatively impacted the profits of the bussing system. The only way any city can keep the busses going was to pay for the expenses needed for the system. The only way they were going to make the busses profitable again and regain the customers they needed was to meet the demands of the protesters.