Name_____

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was born in 1913 in Alabama. As an African-American citizen, she saw that many people were being treated unfairly. All American citizens were supposed to have equal rights, but for Rosa Parks, this was not true. African-American citizens were segregated from white citizens. During her lifetime, African-Americans could not even drink from the same water fountains as other Americans. They could not sit in the same areas of restaurants or movie theaters. The list of inequalities went on and on.

Every day to go to work, Rosa would ride a bus. One rule on the bus was for African-Americans to give up their seats if white passengers wanted them. But one particular day, Rosa decided she'd had enough of the rule. She had paid to ride the bus, and she had paid for her seat; she was not going to give up her place.

Rosa Parks's brave move of defiance led to her arrest. However, many people stood up for her and were proud of her act of courage that day on the bus. The African-American community agreed to a boycott. All of those in favor of Rosa's actions decided to no longer use the bus system, even though for many this meant a long walk to and from work.

As a result of Rosa Parks's actions and a ruling made by the Supreme Court, things began to change for the better. One such change was that African-Americans no longer had to give up their seats for other passengers. The huge Civil Rights Movement that would continue to happen in America would help gain equal rights for all American citizens. Rosa Parks will always be remembered as a true crusader for civil rights.

Text Questions

1. What does the word *segregated* mean as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. held together
   b. kept separate
   c. hidden
   d. placed in quarantine
2. According to the text, what can you infer is a reason Rosa Parks felt African-Americans were being treated unfairly?
   a. because they were not being treated the same as other citizens
   b. because other citizens were given better seats in public places
   c. because she could not a apply for a job as a bus driver
   d. because her children were being treated different than their classmates
3. What does the word *boycott* mean as it is used in the third paragraph?
   a. to gather up
   b. to stay with others
   c. to stay away from
   d. to invite to go
4. What are civil rights?
   a. rights guaranteed to all adults
   b. rights guaranteed to all children
   c. rights guaranteed to all immigrants
   d. rights guaranteed to all citizens
5. Why did Rosa Parks most likely not give up her seat on the bus?
   a. She was tired and needed to sit.
   b. She was tired of being treated unfairly.
   c. She was unable to stand because she had hurt her leg.
   d. She knew she was about to get off at the next bus stop.

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