



Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born on February 4, 1913 and died on October 24, 2005. She was an African-American civil right activist and was called "the first lady of civil rights", and "the mother of the freedom movement".

Rosa Parks' first event in her fight for civil rights was in Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955, Parks refused to obey bus driver James Blake's order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. This disobedience and defiance had the effect of sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It was a civil rights protest during which African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating. It took place from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956, and is regarded as the first large-scale U.S. demonstration against segregation. On June 5, 1956, a Montgomery federal court ruled that any law requiring racially segregated seating on buses violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That amendment, adopted in 1868 following the U.S. Civil War, guarantees all citizens—regardless of race—equal rights and equal protection under state and federal laws.

The city appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's decision on December 20, 1956. Montgomery's buses were integrated on December 21, 1956, and the boycott ended. It had lasted 381 days.

It became an important symbol of the modern Civil Rights Movement and Parks became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation. She organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including boycott leader Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to launch him to national prominence in the civil rights movement.

Although widely honored in later years for her action, she suffered for it, losing her job as a seamstress in a local department store. Eventually, she moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she found similar work. From 1965 to 1988 she served as secretary and receptionist to African-American U.S. Representative John Conyers. After retirement from this position, she wrote an autobiography and lived a largely private life in Detroit. In her final years she suffered from dementia, and became involved in a lawsuit filed on her behalf against American hip-hop duo OutKast.

Parks eventually received many honors ranging from the 1979 Spingarn Medal to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and a posthumous statue in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall. Her death in 2005 was a major story in the United States' leading newspapers. She was granted the posthumous honor of lying in honor at the Capitol Rotunda.

## RECAP

Rappelle-toi des étapes pour lire et comprendre un texte en langues étrangères :

- 1) Première lecture : je surligne tous les mots que je connais/ reconnais. (je peux si cela m'aide classer ces mots sous formes de listes, de carte mentale, de tableau...)
- 2) Je lis les questions qui accompagnent le texte et je m'assure que je les comprends bien (dans ces circonstances particulières, rien ne t'empêche de chercher le vocabulaire qui te fait défaut. Pense à le noter dans ton cahier dans la colonne « Vocabulary ».)
- 3) Je procède à une nouvelle lecture en cherchant les éléments qui me permettront de répondre aux questions.
- 4) Je peux si cela me rassure et m'aide passer par une phase de reformulation de ce que j'ai compris en français.

## Rosa Parks and the bus driver

Objectif: Lire et comprendre l'histoire de Rosa Parks

I REMEMBER and fill in the blanks



THE NEGRO      THE WHITE

SECTION      SECTION      WAS ARRESTED

City(where?): \_\_\_\_\_ US state \_\_\_\_\_

Date(when): \_\_\_\_\_

Situation in the buses at that time (you can use **had to/ couldn't/ weren't allowed to**):

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Rosa Parks's attitude and consequence(what?) \_\_\_\_\_

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### II Read and complete the sentences

How the black people protested (How **did** the blacks **protest**):

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Length of the protest(How long **did** the protest **last**) :

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Supreme Court's decision: (What decision **did** the Supreme Court **make**?)

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### II WRITE! Make a sentence with columns A and B

A	Time markers	B	Events
	In 1955		The Southern states / be/ segregated/
	In those days		There / be / discrimination/ public
	At that time		places/
	On the first of December		The buses/ be /separated/ two sections/
	On that evening		Mrs Rosa Parks/take / a bus/
	A few minutes later		She/ refuse /to give up/ her seat/ for /
	Then		white passengers/
	A few days later		she / be/ arrested/
	In December 1956		The Negro community/ organise/ a
			protest/
			Black people / refuse/to use/ the buses/
			The Supreme Court / decide/ bus
			segregation/
			/be / illegal/