

# Reading biographies

## 1. Write the past tense of the following verbs:

arrest \_\_\_\_\_  
attend \_\_\_\_\_  
be \_\_\_\_\_  
die \_\_\_\_\_  
give \_\_\_\_\_  
have \_\_\_\_\_

leave \_\_\_\_\_  
live \_\_\_\_\_  
receive \_\_\_\_\_  
refuse \_\_\_\_\_  
start \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Complete the biography of Rosa Parks with the past tense form of the verbs from exercise 1.

### Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was an incredible African-American civil rights activist who 1. \_\_\_\_\_ born in Alabama, USA in 1913. Rosa 2. \_\_\_\_\_ school but stopped studying as a young teenager to look after her grandmother. As a child Rosa experienced discrimination because of her skin colour and 3. \_\_\_\_\_ in constant fear of terrible groups like the Klu Klux Klan.

At the time, laws in America were very racist and black people 4. \_\_\_\_\_ to sit in separate areas on buses away from white people.



On December 1, 1955, Rosa 5. \_\_\_\_\_ to give up her seat to a white man. The police 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Rosa for civil disobedience and fined her \$10. Her arrest 7. \_\_\_\_\_ one of the largest and most successful movements against racial segregation in history and 8. \_\_\_\_\_ her an iconic status in American culture.

Over the years, Rosa 9. \_\_\_\_\_ many awards for her activism, including the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. award and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rosa 10. \_\_\_\_\_ in 2005, but 12. \_\_\_\_\_ us with this message: *'I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom.'*

## 3. Use the information in the text to answer the questions. Are they true or false?

- |    |                                                         |      |       |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| a) | Rosa Parks was a white civil rights activist.           | True | False |
| b) | Rosa Parks had an easy childhood.                       | True | False |
| c) | Rosa Parks was arrested in 1913.                        | True | False |
| d) | The movement against racial segregation was successful. | True | False |
| e) | Rosa Parks was born in 1913.                            | True | False |
| f) | Rosa Parks wasn't arrested.                             | True | False |
| g) | Rosa Parks died in 1955.                                | True | False |
| h) | Rosa Parks left us with an important teaching.          | True | False |