Name_____

Civil Rights

One hundred years after the Civil War, African-Americans were still being treated unfairly. In many areas of the nation, but especially in the South, African-Americans continued to be treated as inferior. Everything from water fountains to schools continued to be segregated. This segregation continued to fuel people's prejudices and discrimination towards an entire group of people. Change was needed in the 1960s, and change would require both patience and determination by many different citizens.

One person who stands out as brave enough to fight for civil rights was Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks was an African-American woman living in Montgomery, Alabama. As a passenger on a city bus, Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person. Parks was removed from the bus and arrested for her behavior. An organized protest led to a boycott of the bus system. The Supreme Court eventually ruled that the segregated bus system was, in fact, unconstitutional.

Another famous activist for civil rights was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King believed in peaceful demonstrations and boycotts to help convince people to change their attitudes and prejudices. His work led to great changes in how African-Americans were treated in America. Sadly, his work eventually led to his death. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. His name lives on as the country celebrates his birthday each January.

Text Questions

1. Why does the first sentence mention the Civil War?
   a. Many African-Americans were slaves before the Civil War.
   b. The Civil War was the start of the Civil Rights Movement.
   c. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born during the Civil War.
   d. The first organized protests and boycotts for civil rights were held at the start of the Civil War.
2. What does the word *segregated* mean as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. equal
   b. same
   c. different
   d. separate
3. What are civil rights?
   a. The rights that gave suffrage to all females.
   b. The right to live in any country.
   c. The fundamental freedoms and privileges given to a citizen.
   d. The right to have freedom of speech and freedom of religion.
4. Why are Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. both considered important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement?
   a. Both stood up for the rights of African-Americans being treated unfairly and both boycotted unfair treatment.
   b. Both lived in Alabama and were neighbors.
   c. Both organized boycotts of products manufactured in the South.
   d. Both resorted to violent protests.
5. What was the significance of Rosa Parks' decision to stay seated on the bus?
   a. Her refusal to move suggested the law was unfair.
   b. Her refusal to move showed how stubborn the protestors would be.
   c. Her refusal to move caught the attention of the local press.
   d. Her refusal to move sparked riots around the country.

LIVEWORKSHEETS