

# Year 1: Rosa Parks- significant figure

## Knowledge Organiser

Year 1  
Autumn 1



Rosa Parks

## Vocabulary

### Activist:

a person who uses or supports strong actions

**Boycott:** to stop using certain products such as stop using public transportation

**Equality:** right of every individual to equal treatment and opportunities,

### Past:

an earlier time : the time before the present : the events of a person's life, of a place, etc., before the present time

**Present:** events that are happening now

**Segregation:** to separate different people according to race, social class

**Significant:** an important person or place who has played a major part in change in history

## Who was Rosa Parks?

**Rosa Parks** (1858-1928) was an African-American lady who became a civil rights activist.

In her home town of Montgomery Alabama, Parks refused a bus driver's request for her to move from her seat to make way for a white man.

Parks had grown tired of being treated as a lower class person simply for the colour of her skin.

Parks' arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This eventually caused a change in the law, meaning that black people could sit wherever they wanted.

Her actions led to her becoming an important figure in improving civil rights for black people in the USA.

A photograph of Rosa Parks from 1955, with Martin Luther King jr in the background.



## What we will learn by the end of the unit

### We will:

- Ask questions about what it was like for people in the past and how we know this.
- Who was Rosa Parks?
- Why do we remember her?
- What did she achieve?
- How was she brave?
- When did Rosa Parks live (key dates and chronology)?
- Recount changes and how this affects the present

- Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, USA on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1913.
- Black and white people were treated very differently due to Segregation Laws.
- After segregation on buses was made illegal, all other forms of segregation still remained until the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- On September 9, 1996, President Bill Clinton presented Rosa Parks with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honour given by the U.S. executive branch.

## Top 10 facts about Rosa Parks

1. Parks was not alone in refusing to give up her bus seat – 4 other women around Montgomery were arrested around the same time.
2. She had previous run-ins with the same driver.
3. Before the boycott, black people had made up more than 70% of bus users.
4. Many white people responded to the bus boycott with threats and violence.
5. Weeks after her arrest, Parks was arrested again, for her role in the bus boycott.
6. Parks had to move from Montgomery eventually, as she continued to receive threats from angry white groups.
7. She had also been fired from her job.
8. In 1967, Rosa and her husband founded a charity to give career training to young people.
9. When she died, more than 30,000 people filed past her coffin to pay their respects.
10. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her arrest, bus seats were left empty in respect across America.

1<sup>st</sup> December 1955



Rosa boarded the bus home

1<sup>st</sup> December 1955



Refused to give up her seat to a white person

1<sup>st</sup> December 1955



She was arrested and fined \$14 for breaking the Segregation Law

5<sup>th</sup> December 1955



Black and white people in Montgomery boycott the use of buses

13<sup>th</sup> November 1956



The Supreme Court ruled that segregation of black and white passengers on buses was illegal

20<sup>th</sup> December 1956



The 381 day Montgomery Bus Boycott ended