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Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

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26 October, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the icon of the American civil rights movement, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955 started a revolution in the US civil rights movement. She was one of the first people to challenge America's segregation laws. Ms Parks passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. She suffered from the effects of old age in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit praised her courage and strength. He said she was a symbol of the civil rights movement. He also said: "Just by a simple act of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks is called the mother of America's civil rights movement. In 1955, she was a 42-year-old department store worker in Montgomery, Alabama. She caught a bus and sat down. Soon after, a white man got on and had to stand. The law required black passengers to make room for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen." She was arrested and fined \$10. This incident sparked the famous bus boycott that lasted 381 days. It also led to the end of segregation laws throughout America's South.

WARM-UPS

1. GREAT PERSON: Choose a great person in the world today. You are now that person. Walk around the class meeting the other “great people”. Introduce yourselves and chat about your lives, achievements and greatness. Which of you is greater?

2. FAMOUS AMERICANS: Below is a list of famous Americans. What do you know about them? Walk around the class and ask other students about them. After you have finished, sit down and share your findings. What interesting things did you find out?

- Rosa Parks
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Colin Powell
- Malcolm X
- Jesse Owens
- Maya Angelou
- Michael Jackson
- Condoleezza Rice

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Icons / civil rights / white men / buses / revolutions / courts / old age / mothers / death / courage / strength / second-class citizens / boycotts / freedom

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. CIVIL RIGHTS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with civil rights. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. DISCRIMINATION: Have you ever been discriminated against? In pairs / groups, talk about how you would feel about suffering from the following forms of discrimination. How do you think each type of discrimination affects people’s feelings and lives?

- Racism
- Sexism
- Ageism
- Disability discrimination
- Religious discrimination
- Sexual orientation discrimination
- Size, weigh and looks discrimination
- Pregnancy discrimination

6. PREJUDICE: Does prejudice exist in your country? Describe it to your partner(s). In pairs / groups, talk about the kinds of prejudice you know about or have heard about around the world. Here are some countries you might want to talk about: Great Britain, America, Japan, China, France, Australia, India, South Africa, Brazil, Sudan...

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Rosa Parks was an icon of America's rights and wrongs movement. T / F
- b. She was one of the first people to challenge segregation in the 1950s. T / F
- c. She recently made many public appearances. T / F
- d. Her simple act of standing up helped many people to sit down. T / F
- e. She asked a white man on a bus if she could sit on his seat. T / F
- f. U.S. law required black passengers to give their seats to white people. T / F
- g. She was arrested and sent to prison for 381 days. T / F
- h. Laws were changed in South America. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. icon | sparked |
| b. movement | space |
| c. started | got on |
| d. passed away | resulted in |
| e. praised | died |
| f. caught | shortly |
| g. soon | campaign |
| h. room | continued for |
| i. lasted | symbol |
| j. led to | hailed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. American civil | and sat down |
| b. give up | for so many people |
| c. one of the | of old age |
| d. she suffered from the effects | fined \$10 |
| e. she stood up | her seat |
| f. She caught a bus | a second-class citizen |
| g. The law required black passengers | rights movement |
| h. I'm tired of being treated like | to make room for white passengers |
| i. She was arrested and | that lasted 381 days |
| j. the famous bus boycott | first people |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

ODD WORD OUT: Strike through the incorrect choice in each group of three *italicized* words.

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the *icon / logo / symbol* of the American civil rights movement, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955 *sparked / started / finished* a revolution in the US civil rights *movie / campaign / movement*. She was one of the first people to challenge America's segregation laws. Ms Parks *passed away / passed / died* in her sleep at her home in Detroit. She suffered from the effects of old age in recent years and was *rarely / hardly ever / really* seen in public. The mayor of Detroit praised her courage and strength. He said she was a symbol of the civil rights movement. He also said: "Just by a simple *act / action / acting* of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks is *called / known as / highlighted* the mother of America's civil rights movement. In 1955, she was a 42-year-old department store worker in Montgomery, Alabama. She *caught / got on / crashed into* a bus and sat down. Soon after, a white man got on and had to stand. The law required black passengers to *make space / room / lounge* for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to move, saying: "No. I'm *tired of / fed up with / over the moon about* being treated like a second-class citizen." She was arrested and fined \$10. This *bus / incident / event* sparked the famous bus boycott that lasted 381 days. It also *resulted in / added up / led to* the end of segregation laws throughout America's South.

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the icon of the American _____ rights movement, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955 started a revolution in the US civil _____ movement. She was one of the first people to _____ America's segregation laws. Ms Parks passed away in her sleep at her home in Detroit. She suffered from the _____ of old age in recent years and was rarely seen in public. The mayor of Detroit praised her courage and strength. He said she was a _____ of the civil rights movement. He also said: "Just by a simple act of sitting down she _____ so many people."

Ms Parks is called the mother of America's civil rights _____. In 1955, she was a 42-year-old department store worker in Montgomery, Alabama. She _____ and sat down. Soon after, a white man got on and had to stand. The law required black passengers to _____ for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to move, saying: "No. I'm tired of being _____ like a second-class citizen." She was arrested and _____ \$10. This incident sparked the famous bus boycott that lasted 381 days. It also led to the end of segregation _____ throughout America's South.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'civil' and 'rights'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. ODD WORD OUT: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "CIVIL RIGHTS" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about Rosa Parks and civil rights.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| • icon | • mother |
| • refusal | • caught |
| • challenge | • stand |
| • suffered | • move |
| • strength | • sparked |
| • simple | • led to |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you know about Rosa Parks?
- c. What do you think about her action in 1955?
- d. Which people stood up for others in your country?
- e. What do you know about America's civil rights movement?
- f. Does everyone have equal civil rights in your country?
- g. Does your country have a civil rights movement?
- h. What does Rosa Parks' example teach us?
- i. Do you think America should have a special Rosa Parks Day holiday?
- j. Have you ever stood up for your rights?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. What kinds of prejudice exist in your country?
- d. Do you totally believe that everyone is the same, whatever the color of their skin?
- e. Have you ever felt like a second-class citizen?
- f. Do you have any experiences of racism?
- g. What are the good and bad things that different races have done throughout history, or are doing now?
- h. What question would you like to have asked Rosa Parks?
- i. What do you think her reply would have been?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

DISCRIMINATION: Your job is to educate the people in your country about discrimination and to help make it disappear. Write different examples of discrimination in the middle column and solutions to make these examples disappear in the right hand column.

	EXAMPLES	SOLUTIONS
Racism		
Sexism		
Ageism		
Disability discrimination		
Religious discrimination		
Sexual orientation discrimination		

Change partners and discuss what you talked about earlier. Compare your ideas.

Decide together on the points that you think would be most effective in reducing discrimination in your society.

Give a presentation on your points to the rest of the class. Vote on the best one.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on Rosa Parks. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. INEQUALITY: Make a poster describing the inequality in your country. Describe the actions your government must take to reduce inequality. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write similar things?

4. ANOTHER RACE: Write an essay describing the great things done by a race that is different from your own. Show what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. F e. F f. T g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. icon | symbol |
| b. movement | campaign |
| c. started | sparked |
| d. passed away | died |
| e. praised | hailed |
| f. caught | got on |
| g. soon | shortly |
| h. room | space |
| i. lasted | continued for |
| j. led to | resulted in |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. American civil | rights movement |
| b. give up | her seat |
| c. one of the | first people |
| d. she suffered from the effects | of old age |
| e. she stood up | for so many people |
| f. She caught a bus | and sat down |
| g. The law required black passengers | to make room for white passengers |
| h. I'm tired of being treated like | a second-class citizen |
| i. She was arrested and | fined \$10 |
| j. the famous bus boycott | that lasted 381 days |

ODD WORD OUT:

Civil rights icon Rosa Parks dies

Rosa Parks, the *icon* / ~~logo~~ / *symbol* of the American civil rights movement, has died aged 92. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955 *sparked* / *started* / ~~finished~~ a revolution in the US civil rights ~~movie~~ / *campaign* / *movement*. She was one of the first people to challenge America's segregation laws. Ms Parks *passed away* / ~~passed~~ / *died* in her sleep at her home in Detroit. She suffered from the effects of old age in recent years and was *rarely* / *hardly ever* / ~~really~~ seen in public. The mayor of Detroit praised her courage and strength. He said she was a symbol of the civil rights movement. He also said: "Just by a simple *act* / *action* / ~~acting~~ of sitting down she stood up for so many people."

Ms Parks is *called* / *known as* / ~~highlighted~~ the mother of America's civil rights movement. In 1955, she was a 42-year-old department store worker in Montgomery, Alabama. She *caught* / *got on* / ~~crashed into~~ a bus and sat down. Soon after, a white man got on and had to stand. The law required black passengers to *make space* / *room* / ~~lounge~~ for white passengers. Ms Parks refused to move, saying: "No. I'm *tired of* / *fed up with* / ~~over the moon about~~ being treated like a second-class citizen." She was arrested and fined \$10. This ~~bus~~ / *incident* / *event* sparked the famous bus boycott that lasted 381 days. It also *resulted in* / ~~added up~~ / *led to* the end of segregation laws throughout America's South.