Name: Date: Score: / 6

Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott: Comprehension

Nonfiction: History · about 245 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🚌 Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, after a long day of work as a seamstress. At that time, laws in Montgomery required Black passengers to sit in the back of the bus and to give up their seats to white passengers if the front filled up. When the driver ordered Parks to stand so a white man could sit, she quietly refused. She was arrested.

Parks was not simply tired that day. She had worked for years with the NAACP, an organization fighting for civil rights. She later said, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

Black leaders in Montgomery decided to respond with a boycott. They asked Black residents to stop riding the city buses. A young minister named Martin Luther King Jr. was chosen to lead the effort. For 381 days, tens of thousands of people walked, shared rides, and carpooled instead of taking the bus. Some walked miles to work in rain and cold. Because most bus riders had been Black, the bus company lost a great deal of money.

In November 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional, meaning it went against the U.S. Constitution. The boycott ended in December 1956, when Montgomery's buses were integrated.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott showed that ordinary people, working together peacefully, could change unfair laws. Rosa Parks became known as "the mother of the civil rights movement."

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. the life of a seamstress B. the history of Alabama C. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott D. how city buses work

2. **Detail:** What did the law require Black passengers to do?

   A. sit in the back and give up seats to white passengers B. sit in the front C. pay more money D. ride only at night

3. **Vocabulary:** A boycott is...

   A. a court ruling B. refusing to use or buy something as a protest C. a city law D. a type of bus

4. **Detail:** How long did the boycott last?

   A. one week B. 381 days C. 10 years D. 30 days

5. **Inference:** Why did the bus company lose money?

   A. Gas prices went up. B. The drivers went on strike. C. The buses broke down. D. Most bus riders had been Black, and they stopped riding.

6. **Detail:** What did Rosa Parks mean when she said, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in"?

ANSWER KEY

Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott: Comprehension (answers)

Nonfiction: History · about 245 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🚌 Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, after a long day of work as a seamstress. At that time, laws in Montgomery required Black passengers to sit in the back of the bus and to give up their seats to white passengers if the front filled up. When the driver ordered Parks to stand so a white man could sit, she quietly refused. She was arrested.

Parks was not simply tired that day. She had worked for years with the NAACP, an organization fighting for civil rights. She later said, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

Black leaders in Montgomery decided to respond with a boycott. They asked Black residents to stop riding the city buses. A young minister named Martin Luther King Jr. was chosen to lead the effort. For 381 days, tens of thousands of people walked, shared rides, and carpooled instead of taking the bus. Some walked miles to work in rain and cold. Because most bus riders had been Black, the bus company lost a great deal of money.

In November 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional, meaning it went against the U.S. Constitution. The boycott ended in December 1956, when Montgomery's buses were integrated.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott showed that ordinary people, working together peacefully, could change unfair laws. Rosa Parks became known as "the mother of the civil rights movement."

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. the life of a seamstress B. the history of Alabama **C. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott** D. how city buses work

2. **Detail:** What did the law require Black passengers to do?
   A. sit in the back and give up seats to white passengers B. sit in the front C. pay more money D. ride only at night

3. **Vocabulary:** A boycott is...
   A. a court ruling **B. refusing to use or buy something as a protest** C. a city law D. a type of bus

4. **Detail:** How long did the boycott last?
   A. one week **B. 381 days** C. 10 years D. 30 days

5. **Inference:** Why did the bus company lose money?
   A. Gas prices went up. B. The drivers went on strike. C. The buses broke down.
   D. Most bus riders had been Black, and they stopped riding.

6. **Detail:** What did Rosa Parks mean when she said, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in"?
   She was not physically tired; she was tired of being treated unfairly.