

FACTS

1. Rosa Parks helped change the laws in America. Because of her actions, racial integration was declared and everyone (giving him equal rights, Rosa Parks was a black woman born in 1913 in Alabama. At that time there were laws separating black and white people. Segregating means separating them. Rosa went to a school with all African American students. Whites and blacks were forced to go to different schools. After she got her high school diploma, she helped her family earn money by working in a department store.
2. On December 1, 1955, after a long day at work, Rosa boarded the bus for home. She took a seat in the first of several rows designated for "colored" passengers. The bus began to fill with white passengers. The driver noticed that several white passengers were standing in the aisles. He stopped the bus and asked the sign separating the two sections back one row and asked four black passengers to give up their seats. Three complied, but Rosa refused and remained seated. The driver demanded, "Why don't you stand up?" to which Rosa replied, "I don't think I should have to stand up." The driver called the police and had her arrested. Later, she recalled that her refusal wasn't because she was physically tired, but that she was tired of going to Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat. She must be proud of what she did. After that, all African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. They also held many peaceful protests.
3. A year later, the Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation was illegal. Now whites and blacks could go to the same schools. They did not have to give up their seats on buses. They had the same rights as everyone else in America. Rosa Parks is remembered today because she believed everyone should be treated equally. She was honored in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, who gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a citizen can receive.