



Rosa Parks -- Rosa Parks was born in 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. With a simple act of disobedience in 1955, Rosa changed the course of the American civil rights movement. The law in Montgomery, Alabama, decreed that African-American bus riders give up their seats to whites. Rosa Parks was prepared to face the consequences when a bus driver demanded that she give up her seat to a white passenger; she was promptly arrested. A boycott was organized, with the participation of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Montgomery's bus system, heavily dependent on African-American riders, suffered great financial losses. With Rosa's approval, her lawyer took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Almost a year later, in November 1956, the court ruled that the segregation laws were unconstitutional. Called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Mrs. Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, a non-profit organization that helps young people develop positive goals.