

Lesson Plan, Civil Rights Movement
History Lab, Instructions

Essential Question:

What was Rosa Parks' role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

Objective: Students will complete a "History Lab" and examine primary sources to extend their knowledge of the role of Rosa Parks in the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955.

Materials:

- If a Bus Could Talk, The Story of Rosa Parks, by Faith Ringgold
- History Lab Packet
- Timeline of dates related to the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Activities:

1. Introduce students to the story of Rosa Parks by reading aloud the book, If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks, by Faith Ringgold. Read the page about Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus and then stop the read aloud.
2. Discuss the reasons why Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus. Why did she do that? (Add additional information about segregation on the busses such as oral histories, photographs or texts.)
3. Give students the bus diagram from the trial of Rosa Parks and ask them to describe the location where Rosa Parks sat. According to the Montgomery laws (see source attached) was it against the law in the City of Montgomery, AL for Rosa Parks to sit in the seat she did?
4. Tell students that they will describe the rest of the story of what happened in Montgomery after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus through a history lab. Encourage students to play the role of history detective, and to look for clues in each document or image to explain what the effects of Rosa Parks' actions.
5. Give students the timeline to examine and read. Add students to cut the various years/events into little strips.
6. Hand out the "History Lab." For each page, ask students to match a year and a description of the event. Students should glue the event descriptor to each page.