Name _____ *Completing a timeline*

Rosa Parks: Changing the Course of History

When Rosa Parks decided to keep her seat on the bus on December 1, 1955, she set into motion events that would change civil rights in this country. Read about some other important events in Rosa's life.

Rosa was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1913. It was a time when the color of her skin affected every part of her life. African-Americans could not attend school with whites. They were also segregated in many restaurants and movie theaters. They could not even drink from the same water fountain as whites. Rosa said it made her feel as if she weren't a normal human being.

Rosa married Raymond Parks in 1932. She worked as a seamstress in a department store. One day when she finished work, she took a seat on the bus. At that time in 1955, African-Americans had to sit in the back of the bus. Only whites were allowed in the front. If all the white seats were filled, African-Americans had to give up their seats and stand. On this day, the bus driver told Rosa to give her seat to a white person. Rosa refused. She was arrested.

Rosa was taken to jail. Some people were very angry. They decided not to ride the buses again until the laws were changed. For over a year, many people walked or found other ways to get to work. Finally, on December 20, 1956, the laws were changed.

Rosa's refusal to give up her seat caused other changes. She was fired from her job because of it. In 1979 she won an award for her work in civil rights. She founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in 1987. Young people learn leadership skills there.

When Rosa decided to stay seated on the bus, she brought about many changes for civil rights.

List the important events that happened in each of these years of her life:

1913 _____

1932 _____

1955 _____

1956 _____

1979 _____

1987 _____

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