

# Rosa Parks

## Early Life

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913. She grew up in Montgomery, Alabama. She grew up at a time when America was segregated for black and white people.

## Segregation in America

Segregation meant many things for black and white people were separated by law. For example, black and white children went to separate schools. Black and white people were not even allowed to drink from the same water fountain! Some people said things could be "separate but equal." This did not really happen. Black people were treated worse than white people within society.

## The Bus Ride That Changed History

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was coming home from work. She was on a bus. She was sitting in the section of the bus that black people were supposed to sit in, at the back of the bus. If the bus got overcrowded, the driver would make black people stand so that a white passenger could sit. The bus got crowded. Rosa was told to move further back to give her seat to a white person. She did not move. The police came and arrested her. They said by not giving up her seat she was breaking the law.

## What Happened Next?

Many people refused to ride the bus. They were angry about what happened to Rosa. The bus companies lost a lot of money because so many people avoided the bus. Eventually, the buses decided anyone could sit anywhere.

Rosa's actions made history. They sparked a movement to make a change. It wasn't the end of segregation everywhere, but it was a victory.

