Civil Rights Leader Rosa Parks Dies

Imagine being told you could only sit in certain seats on a train or a bus, or that you would have to give up your seat just because someone of a different race wanted to sit in it.

That's what it used to be like in the South. But an African-American woman named Rosa Parks helped put an end to that kind of separation, or *segregation,* on buses. Parks, who is often called the "mother of the civil rights movement," died October 24 at age 92.

Parks got on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, on December 1, 1955. She sat in a section of the bus set aside for African-Americans. Soon a white man got on the bus. There were no more seats in the "white" section of the bus, so the driver asked Parks to move. When she refused to give up her seat, the driver called the police. Rosa Parks was arrested and taken to jail.

After other African-Americans heard about Rosa's arrest, they planned a *boycott* of the buses. One of the boycott's organizers was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The boycott went on for 13 months. Instead of riding the bus to work, many African-American people in Montgomery found other ways to get to work. The boycott ended when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the segregation laws on Alabama's buses were not legal.

NEWS WORD BOX

certain   civil rights
boycott   arrest
segregation separation
refused   legal

MORE FACTS ABOUT ROSA PARKS

- Rosa Parks' decision inspired more people to fight for civil rights.
- Rosa Parks and her husband, Raymond, founded a program to help African-American teens learn about their history.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

- Why do you think many people consider Rosa Parks to be a hero? Would you agree or disagree with them?
- Can you think of a time when you felt discriminated against? Tell about that time. Tell how you felt at that time.