



# ROSA PARKS



Rosa Parks worked as a \_\_\_\_\_ in a department store in Montgomery, Alabama. She was also secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the \_\_\_\_\_ or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP was founded in 1909 to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

On Dec. 1, 1955 Rosa Parks refused to \_\_\_\_\_ on a bus in Montgomery. She was arrested and removed from the bus. Years later she explained,



"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

Color Alabama in red on the map below. Put an X where Montgomery, Alabama is located:





# MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

On the night of Rosa Parks' arrest, Jo Ann Robinson, a professor at Alabama State

College, printed \_\_\_\_\_ flyers calling for a boycott of the Montgomery Bus system the following Monday. The flyers were passed out to different congregations and high school students. It said (in part),

*This woman's case will come up on Monday. We are, therefore, asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial. Don't ride the buses to work, to town, to school, or anywhere on Monday.*

This is for Monday, December 5, 1955  
Another Negro woman has been arrested and thrown into jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus for a white person to sit down.  
It is the second time since the Claudette Colbert case that a Negro woman has been arrested for the same thing this has to be stopped.  
Negroes have rights, too, for if Negroes did not ride the buses, they could not operate. Three-fourths of the riders are Negroes, yet we are arrested, or have to stand over empty seats. If we do not do something to stop these arrests, they will continue. The next time it may be you, or your daughter, or mother.  
This woman's case will come up on Monday. We are, therefore, asking every Negro to stay off the bus Monday in protest of the arrest and trial.  
Don't ride the buses to work, to town, to school, or anywhere on Monday.  
You can afford to stay out of school for one day if you have no other way to go except by bus.  
You can also afford to stay out of town for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride the bus at all on Monday. Please stay off of all buses ~~Monday~~.

\_\_\_\_\_ % of the African-American community did not ride the buses that day.



Meanwhile, several thousand community members met and established the Montgomery Improvement Association. Martin Luther King, Jr., a young minister new to the community, was elected chairman president. The Montgomery Improvement Association agreed that the bus boycott would continue until their demands were met. Their demands included

- courteous treatment by bus drivers
- first-come, first-serve seating
- employment of African-American bus drivers.





Black people constituted 70% of the bus system's riders. Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ blacks participated in the boycott. Black people walked, cycled and even rode mules or drove horse-drawn buggies to get around. The MIA organized \_\_\_\_\_ and held weekly gatherings with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the black community mobilized. Black taxi drivers charged \_\_\_\_\_ per ride, the equivalent to the bus fare until city official threatened to fine taxi drivers who charged less than 45 cents per ride. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired those who refused to ride:

*If we are wrong—the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong—God almighty is wrong! If we are wrong—Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer and never came down to earth. If we are wrong—justice is a lie. And we are determined here in Montgomery to work and fight until justice runs down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream."*

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted over \_\_\_\_\_. It ended when a federal ruling took effect that declared the Alabama and Montgomery laws requiring \_\_\_\_\_ buses to be unconstitutional.

## ANSWERS:

Parks worked as a seamstress in a department store in Montgomery, Alabama. She was also secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On Dec. 1, 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat

Jo Ann Robinson, a professor at Alabama State College, printed 35,000 flyers calling for a boycott of the Montgomery Bus system the following Monday.

90 % of the African-American community did not ride the buses that day

Nearly 40,000 blacks participated in the boycott.

The MIA organized carpools and held weekly gatherings with sermons and music to keep the black community mobilized.

Black taxi drivers charged 10cents per ride, the equivalent to the bus fare until city official threatened to fine taxi drivers who charged less than 45 cents per ride.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted over one year. It ended when

a federal ruling took effect that declared the Alabama and Montgomery laws requiring

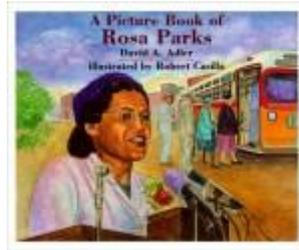
segregated buses to be unconstitutional.

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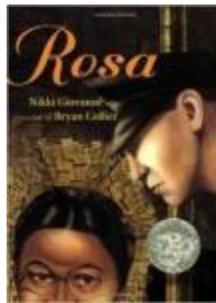
## BOOKS:

There are lots of books about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Here are some of the books we read together. (These are clickable, affiliate links):

I liked [A Picture Book of Rosa Parks](#) by Robert Casilla — This one gave some good background (and pictures) of the Jim Crow Laws, KKK — and went on to explain her work with the NAACP, her arrest, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s role in the bus boycott.



I also really liked [Rosa](#) by Nikki Giovanni because it explained the risk Jo Ann Robinson took printing out the flyers and explained how Martin Luther King, Jr. was chosen to speak for them. It included information that isn't as commonly known.



[I Am Rosa Parks](#) A good book for young readers to read to themselves.

[If A Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks](#) — This is definitely aimed at a younger elementary audience. ED liked this book a lot. My older two were neutral.

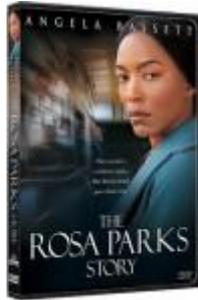
[Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation](#) - A blues inspired tribute about the boycott.

[More Elementary and Middle School Books on the Civil Rights Movement.](#) (See this post.)

## MOVIES:

Here are some of the books we read together. (These are clickable, affiliate links):

[The Rosa Parks Story](#)- We watched this story after reading the books above. It does a good job sharing her life story and really adding details that the children's books didn't include. It shows her background and helped the kids understand how her opinions (and willingness to take a stand) were influenced by incidents and experiences in her life.



[The Long Walk Home](#) - The movie about Rosa Parks did a great job sharing the story and courage of Rosa Parks, but I think the kids were more moved by the Long Walk Home which really showed them what it was like to be a part of the Montgomery Bus Boycotts.

Before I go, I have two more movies I just *have* to mention!! We also watched several other movies during this unit which were all amazing. We watched the [The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman](#) at the beginning of this unit, which was shared the story of a woman whose life spanned from the Civil War period through the Civil Rights Movement. And I also have to rave about the movie [Ruby Bridges](#) which the kids really loved. (We read the two books before that so the movie was even more meaningful.

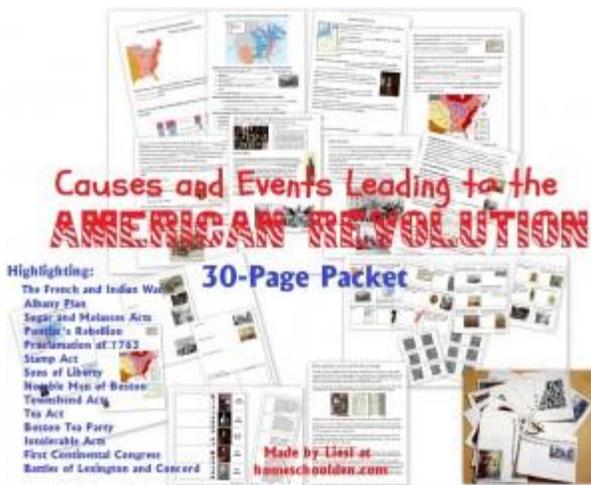
***Disclosure:** Please note that some of the links in this pdf are affiliate links, and at no additional cost to you, I will earn a commission if you decide to make a purchase.*

You might be interested in some of our other packets:

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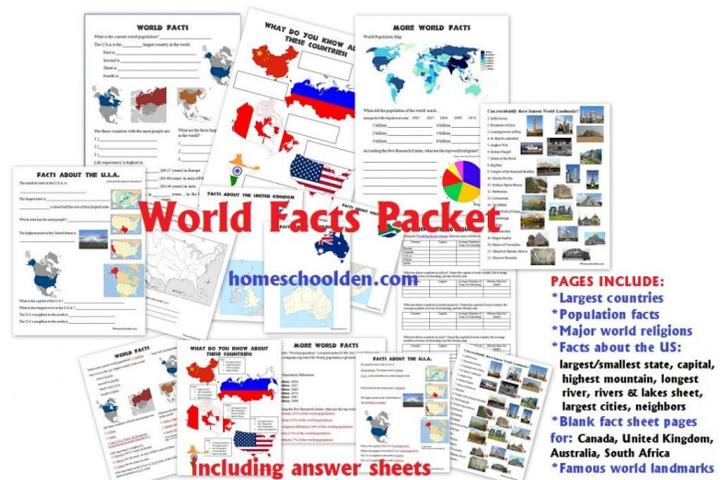


- [American Revolution Unit: Causes and Events Leading to the American Revolution](#)



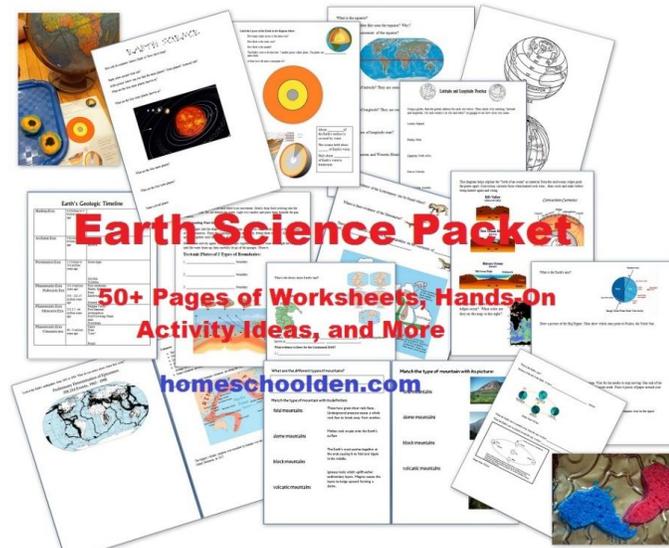
- [World Facts Packet:](#)

- \*Largest countries
- \*Population facts
- \*Major world religions
- \*Facts about the World: longest river, largest desert, wettest and driest places on Earth, tallest mountain, deepest spot in the ocean, etc.
- \*Facts about the US: largest/smallest state, capital, highest mountain, longest river, rivers & lakes sheet, largest cities, neighbors
- \*Blank fact sheet pages for: Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa
- \*Famous world landmarks

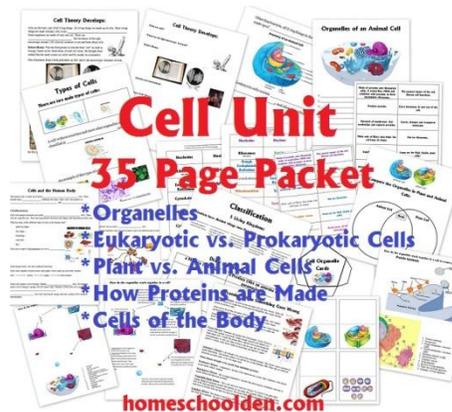


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## **Simple Machines Packet**

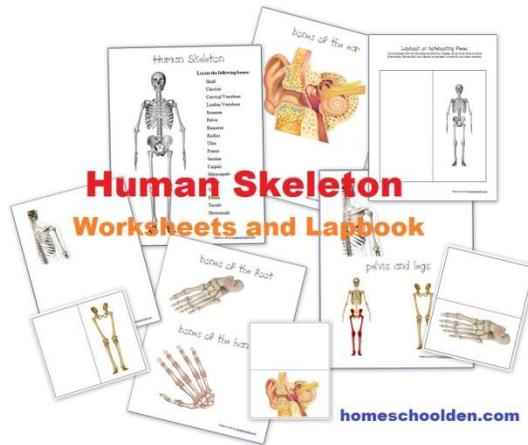


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