

# Rosa Parks Unit Study



## Subjects:

Reading, Following Directions,  
Geography, History, Problem Solving



# Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Rosa Parks Unit Study! It was created to be used with the book: *Who Was Rosa Parks?* You may incorporate other books about Rosa Parks, as well. Here is what is included in the study:

- Pages 3-9:** **A Biography of Rosa Parks:** Notetaking sheets with answer key.  
**Page 10-14:** **Timeline of Rosa Park's Life:** Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.
- Pages 15:** **Civil Rights Word Scramble:** Answer key on page 9.  
**Pages 16:** **Compare and Contrast:** Compare the daily lives of African-Americans before and after the Civil Rights Movement.
- Pages 17-18:** **Following Directions:** Practice following directions while learning US geography and about Rosa Parks' life.  
**Page 19-20:** **Be An Activist:** Identify a problem to solve and then educate yourself about it and plan some actions to take.

Also refer to our post, [Rosa Parks' FREE Unit Study](#), for:

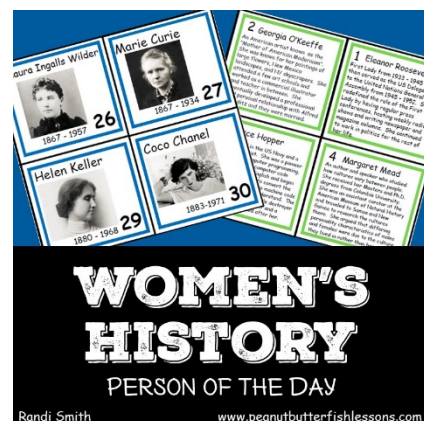
1. Videos about Rosa Parks.
2. Resources about the Civil Rights Movement.
3. Other fun resources!

## Credits



MyCuteGraphics

## You May Also Be Interested In:



# A Biography of Rosa Parks

**Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Early Childhood:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What did Rosa think of people who insulted her?:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Church:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Raymond Parks:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# A Biography of Rosa Parks

Early Jobs: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

NAACP: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Voting: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Rosa's brother: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Virginia Durr: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Workshop in Tennessee: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Biography of Rosa Parks

Other Activists: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

The Problem with the Bus: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

What Rosa did about the bus problem: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Montgomery Bus Boycott: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

US Supreme Court Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Biography of Rosa Parks

The Montgomery Bus Boycott: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

US Supreme Court Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Move to Detroit: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Civil Rights March: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

New Laws: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Death: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

# A Biography of Rosa Parks

## (Answer Key)

Answers will vary, but here are some to start with.

**Birth:** Born in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913.

**Parents:** Father, James, was a carpenter and mother, Leona, was a teacher. They separated when she was 2 ½.

**Early Childhood:** Rosa lived with her mother and brother on her grandparents farm. (Some children may want to include the Ku Klux Klan and children working on farms here.) Rosa used to go fishing with a neighbor woman. She loved school.

**What did Rosa think of people who insulted her?:** She pitied them. She wanted to forgive them and not hate them.

**School:** When she was 11, Rosa went to Montgomery to attend the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. The school was forced to close after Rosa had been there for four years. She attended another school and then had to drop out at 16 when her grandmother became ill. She went back to school after she was married and earned her high school diploma in 1934.

**Church:** Rosa belonged to St. Paul AME Church and it was the center of her life and brought her joy.

**Raymond Parks:** Worked at a barbershop and was part of the NAACP. He helped people who were wrongly accused of committing crimes. He and Rosa married in 1932.

**Early Jobs:** She worked as a nurse's assistant. Then, she was a secretary at an army air force base.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Biography of Rosa Parks

## (Answer Key)

**NAACP:** Rosa joined the NAACP in 1943. She served as the secretary for the Montgomery chapter for 12 years. She used this position to let others know about crimes against black people. And, she helped people register to vote.

**Voting:** Registering to vote was purposely made hard for black people. They had to take a difficult test that white people did not have to take. They also had to pay an expensive poll tax.

**Rosa's brother:** Her brother, Sylvester, served in an army medical unit in World War II. When he returned to Alabama, he did not like how he was treated so he moved to Detroit, MI.

**Virginia Durr:** Rosa made friends with a white woman, Virginia Durr, who became a close ally of hers. Her husband was a lawyer.

**Workshop in Tennessee:** With Durr's help, Rosa attended a 10 day training at Highlander in Monteagle, TN. There she learned about voting rights and segregation and had the experience of living in an integrated community. When she finished, she was given the assignment to make a change in her home town.

**Other Activists:** Rosa made friends with other activists, including Dr. King, who was the minister at a church in town. And Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. a NY congressman.

**The Problem with the Bus:** Many people rode the bus to get to work and other places. The bus had rules about where black people and white people had to sit. Black people also were not allowed to share a row with a white person and had to give up their seat if a white person wanted it.

**What Rosa did about the bus problem:** First, Rosa refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man who wanted it. She was arrested. Then, she and other activists organized a boycott of the buses in Montgomery.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Biography of Rosa Parks

## (Answer Key)

**The Montgomery Bus Boycott:** Black people refused to ride the bus for more than a year and the bus companies lost a lot of business. Many black people were fired from their jobs for supporting the boycott. But, money and support also flowed in from around the country for the people boycotting the buses.

**US Supreme Court Ruling:** In 1956, the US Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. The black community was able to ride the buses again and could sit where they wanted.

**Move to Detroit:** A lot of people were not happy with Ms. Parks about the boycott and the changes, though. So she, her mother, and Raymond moved to Detroit to feel safer.

**Civil Rights March:** In 1963, she attended the historic Civil Rights March in Washington DC, where Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

**New Laws:** Over the next two years, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act into law. The Civil Rights Act said that black people had to be treated equally. The Voting Rights Act got rid of the unfair rules that kept black people from voting.

**Awards:** Ms. Parks received many awards for her work including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. She also got to see black people elected to Congress.

**Death:** Ms. Parks died in 2005 and her coffin was placed in the Capitol building in Washington DC so people could pay their respects to her.

**Word Scramble:** NAACP, Martin Luther King, ally, boycott, sit-in, march, Supreme Court, Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Events for the Timeline

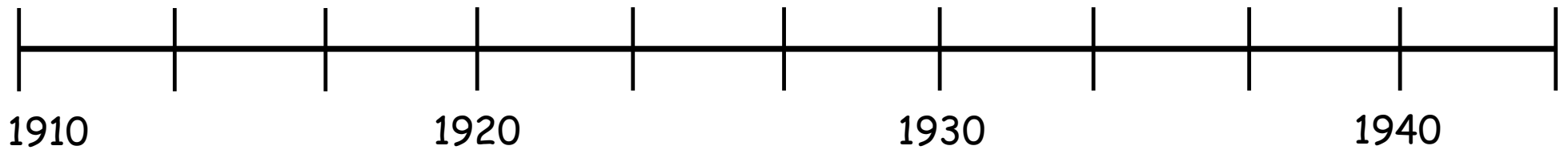
<b>1913 Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, AL.</b>	<b>Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, AL.</b>
<b>1924 Sent to the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls.</b>	<b>Sent to the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls.</b>
<b>1932 Married Raymond Parks.</b>	<b>Married Raymond Parks.</b>
<b>1934 Ms. Parks earned her high school diploma.</b>	<b>Ms. Parks earned her high school diploma.</b>
<b>1941 Started work at the Maxwell Field air force base.</b>	<b>Started work at the Maxwell Field air force base.</b>
<b>1943 Joined the NAACP.</b>	<b>Joined the NAACP.</b>
<b>1945 Became a registered voter.</b>	<b>Became a registered voter.</b>
<b>1954 Became friends with Virginia Durr.</b>	<b>Became friends with Virginia Durr.</b>
<b>1955 Attended civil rights training in Tennessee.</b>	<b>Attended civil rights training in Tennessee.</b>
<b>1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving her seat up on the bus.</b>	<b>Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving her seat up on the bus.</b>
<b>1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott began.</b>	<b>Montgomery Bus Boycott began.</b>
<b>1956 US Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.</b>	<b>US Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.</b>
<b>1957 Moved to Detroit, Michigan.</b>	<b>Moved to Detroit, Michigan.</b>
<b>1963 Traveled to Washington DC to hear Dr. King's <i>I Have a Dream</i> speech.</b>	<b>Traveled to Washington DC to hear Dr. King's <i>I Have a Dream</i> speech.</b>
<b>1964 Civil Rights Act signed.</b>	<b>Civil Rights Act signed.</b>
<b>1965 Voting Rights Act signed.</b>	<b>Voting Rights Act signed.</b>
<b>1977 Raymond Parks dies.</b>	<b>Raymond Parks dies.</b>
<b>1987 Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit.</b>	<b>Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit.</b>
<b>1988 Retires after 20+ years working in Conyer's office.</b>	<b>Retires after 20+ years working in Conyer's office.</b>

# Events for the Timeline

<b>1987 Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit.</b>	<b>Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit.</b>
<b>1988 Retires after 20+ years working in Conyer's office.</b>	<b>Retires after 20+ years working in Conyer's office.</b>
<b>1992 <i>Rosa Parks: My Story</i> published.</b>	<b><i>Rosa Parks: My Story</i> published.</b>
<b>1999 Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.</b>	<b>Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.</b>
<b>2000 Rosa Parks Library and Museum opened in Montgomery.</b>	<b>Rosa Parks Library and Museum opened in Montgomery.</b>
<b>2005 Parks died at age 92.</b>	<b>Parks died at age 92.</b>

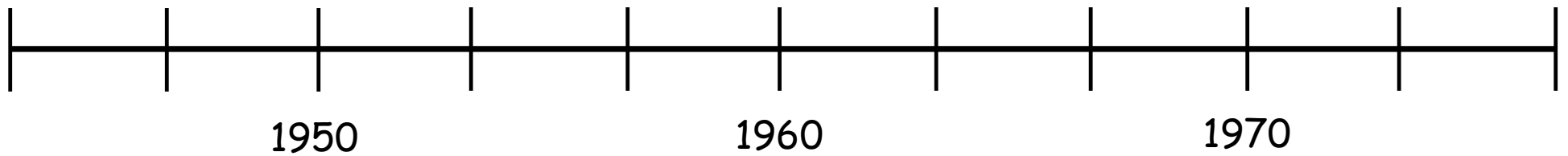
# Timeline of Rosa Parks' Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



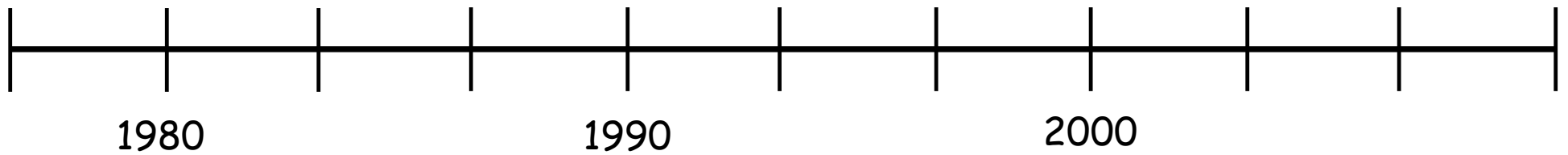
# Timeline of Rosa Parks' Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



# Timeline of Rosa Parks' Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



# Civil Rights Movement

## Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below and learn a little more about the Civil Rights Movement.

**CAPAN** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

This acronym stands for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is the largest and oldest civil rights group in America whose goal is to end racial hatred and inequities.

**TAMNRI TRUEHL GINK** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A major leader in the Civil Rights Movement who believed in nonviolent protests.

**LALY** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

An ally is someone who helps someone else, especially in some kinds of fights. Virginia Durr was an ally to Rosa Parks.

**TOYOTCB** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

To stop buying goods or services from a particular company or country. Civil rights activists used boycotts, such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, to bring about change.

**TISNI** \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_

Another non-violent form of protest. People would ask to be served at a place they knew would not serve them due to the color of their skin and then they would refuse to leave.

**CARHM** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A group of people march together holding signs and chanting to protest something. It usually ends with speeches. The Civil Rights March in 1963 drew over 200,000 people.

**MPERUSE ROTUC** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The highest court in the United States. They can determine if a law is fair based upon our constitution. They determined that segregation laws were not constitutional

**LIVCI GRSITH TCA** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A law signed by President Johnson in 1964 that said people could not be treated differently based upon their skin color, religion, gender, or national origin.

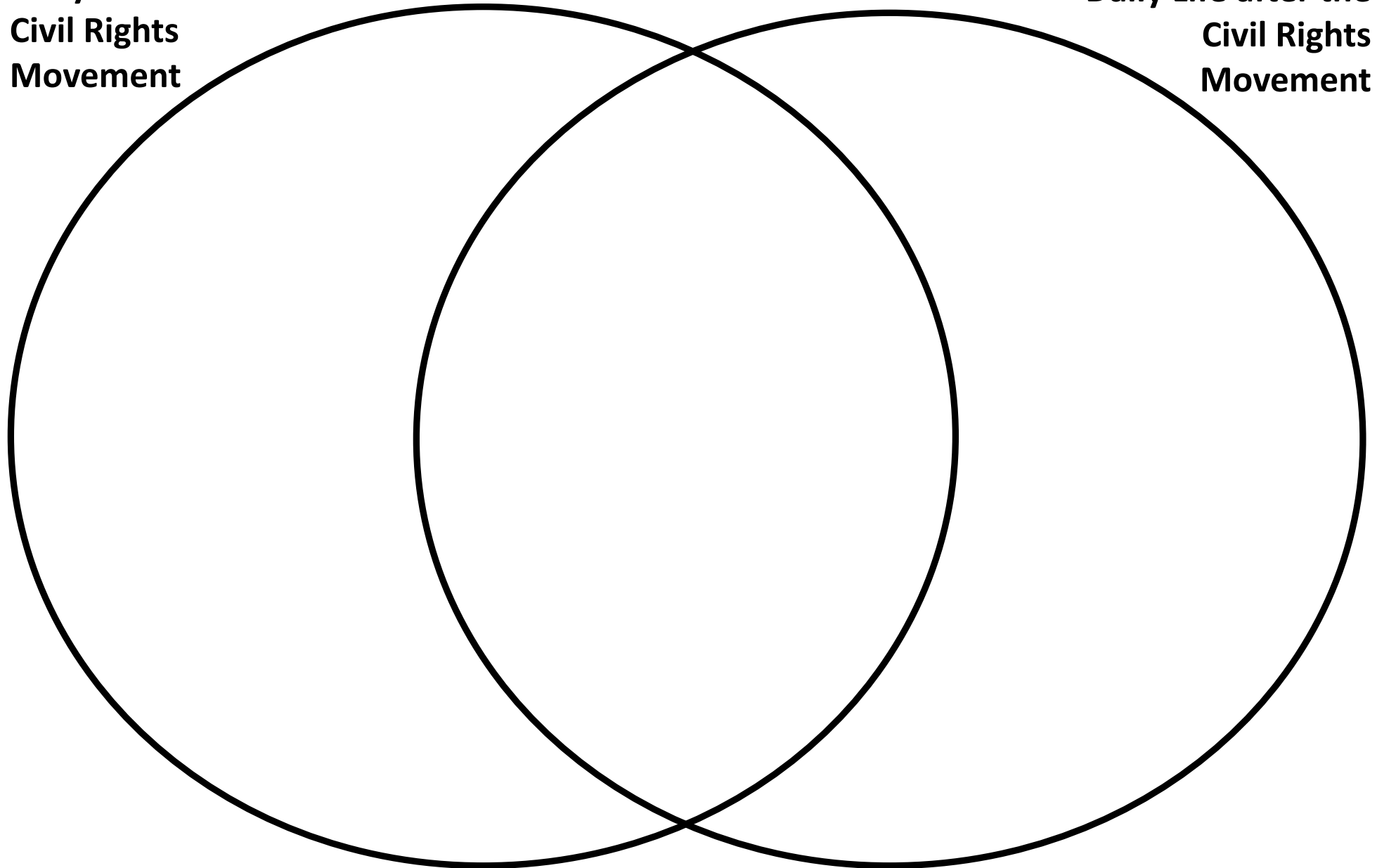
**TGOVNI GHIRSH CAT** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A law signed by President Johnson in 1965 that did away with unfair rules that kept blacks from voting.

Compare the daily lives of African-Americans before and after the Civil Rights Movement. Write the similarities in the middle where the two circles overlap. Write the differences between each time period in the other parts of the circles.

**Daily Life before the  
Civil Rights  
Movement**

**Daily Life after the  
Civil Rights  
Movement**





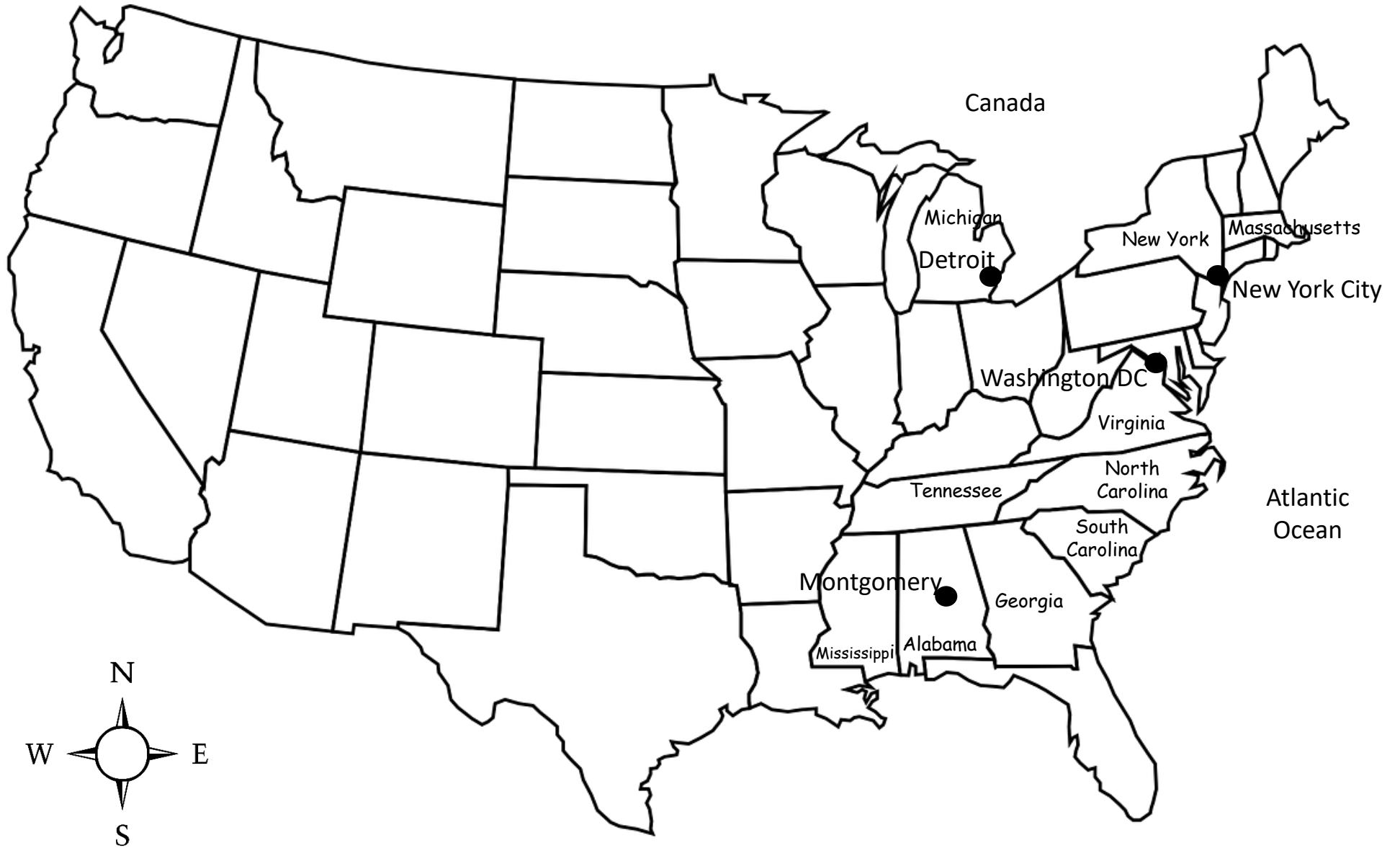
# Following Directions

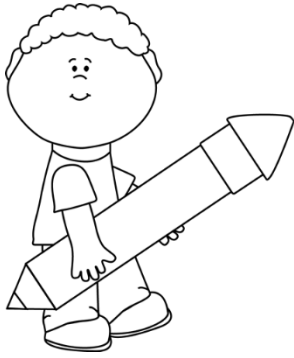
## With Rosa Parks

These directions were created to improve listening comprehension skills. Read the directions to your children and help them as needed. They could also read the directions themselves and follow them, if you prefer to work on reading comprehension skills.

1. Find your state on the map and color it blue. (If you live outside the US, have your child draw a blue arrow from the US toward where you live.)
2. Rosa Parks was born and grew up near Montgomery, Alabama. Circle Montgomery in green.
3. When her brother came home from World War II, he decided to move to Detroit, Michigan. Put a red box around Detroit. Rosa thought about moving there, too, but decided against it.
4. Soon after, Rosa made friends with Virginia Durr who had gone to college in Massachusetts. Make yellow stripes on the state of Massachusetts.
5. Ms. Durr encouraged Rosa Parks to attend a workshop in Tennessee where she learned how to fight for civil rights. Draw an orange square in Tennessee to represent a book. This experience gave her a different perspective on the relationship between black and white people.
6. After this, Ms. Parks met other civil rights leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King who was originally from Atlanta, Georgia. Write the letters M, L, K vertically on Georgia.
7. Together, they organized the Montgomery bus boycott where black people refused to ride the city buses. Draw a simple bus below the state of Alabama and then draw an X on top of it to 'cross it out'.
8. Parks started giving speeches to help support the boycott and even traveled to New York City to give one. Underline New York City in purple.
9. While the Montgomery bus boycott was successful, it made it difficult for Rosa and her family to live in Montgomery. They moved to Detroit. Draw a brown arrow from Montgomery to Detroit.
10. In 1963, Ms. Parks traveled to Washington DC to hear Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech. Make a red oval around Washington DC.
11. She spent the next 40 years working, speaking, and even writing a book. She received many awards for her work. She passed away in 2005 and was buried in Detroit. Make a small gray grave to the right of Detroit.

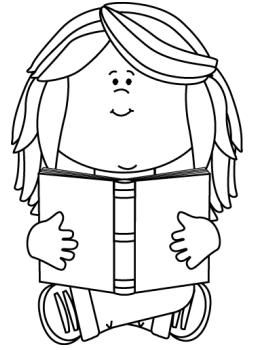
# Following Directions with Rosa Parks





# Be An Activist

## Like Rosa Parks



**Identify a Problem:** (This could be a big problem like taking better care of the earth or injustice against a particular group. Or a more local problem your community is facing.)

---

---

---

---

---

**Educate Yourself About the Problem:** (Do research on the internet, read books, talk to people knowledgeable about the problem.)

**Write key information here:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

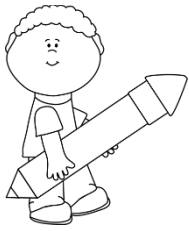
---

---

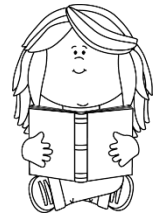
---

---

---



# Be An Activist



## Page 2

**Invite Others to Help:** (Rosa Parks worked with other activists to bring about change. Are there others that can work with you?)

**List some people here:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Plan Some Actions:** (Example: Rosa Parks and her fellow activists held a bus boycott.)

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Action!!**

**Was Your Action Successful? Did you solve your problem?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Terms of Use

Thank you for your purchase! By purchasing this resource, you are agreeing that the contents are the property of Randi Smith and licensed to you only for classroom/personal use as a single user. I retain the copyright, and reserve all rights to this product.

## **YOU MAY:**

- \* Use items (free and purchased) for your own classroom students, or your own personal use, including a home classroom.
- \* Reference this product in blog posts, at seminars, professional development workshops, or other such venues PROVIDED there is both credit given to myself as the author and a link back to my TPT store included in your post/presentation.
- \* Distribute and make copies of FREE ITEMS ONLY to other teachers PROVIDED there is credit given to Randi Smith and a link back to my TPT store.

## **YOU MAY NOT:**

- \* Claim this work as your own, alter the files in any way, or remove/attempt to remove the copyright/ watermarks.
- \* Sell the files or combine them into another unit for sale/free.
- \* Post this document for sale/free elsewhere on the internet (this includes Google Doc links on blogs).
- \* Make copies of purchased items to share with others is strictly forbidden and is a violation of the Terms of Use, along with copyright law.
- \* Obtain this product through any of the channels listed above.

Thank you for abiding by universally accepted codes of professional ethics while using this product.

If you encounter an issue with your file, notice an error, or are in any way experiencing a problem, please contact me and I will be more than happy to help sort it out!

**Thank you, Randi Smith**