

Y4 History Knowledge Mat —Black History; Rosa Parks

Key Vocabulary

Civil Rights

Civil rights are rights given to people because they are a citizen of a particular nation or State. They are made by governments.

democracy

A democracy is a belief in freedom and equality between people. The government of a democratic country is elected by the people of that country.

Political society

A political society is a society where a government makes decisions for its people.

legal

If something is legal it means that it is permitted by law. **Illegal** is the opposite of this.

discrimination

The unfair treatment of people or groups based on characteristics such as race, gender or age.

race

Race is the idea that the human species is divided into distinct groups on the basis of inherited physical and behavioural differences.

segregation

Laws stating that black people and white people had to do things separately was known as segregation.

integrated

To join a society or group of people.

boycott

A boycott is when somebody refuses to buy something, or take part in an activity as a way of expressing strong disapproval.

protest

A protest is when a lot of people come together to show others that they are strongly against an idea, action or event.

Learning Link Backs:

Do you remember learning about some of the different countries in the continent of Africa?
What do you also remember about significant black people in history that you have learnt about, such as Mary Seacole?

Sticky Knowledge

In **1215**, the **Magna Carta** was signed by **England's King** – King John. The Magna Carta was a charter of rights and was the first ever agreement which stated that citizens of England had **legal rights** and that laws also applied to kings and queens.

Civil rights are an important part of being in a **democracy**. If a person is not being given opportunities to take part in political society it is said that they are being denied their civil rights.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Rosa Parks was born in **1913** in the state of **Alabama** in the USA.

She was born at a time when **segregation** laws were enforced in the southern states of America.



Segregation started when slavery ended in **1865**. Lots of white people felt threatened that slaves were now able to live as free men and women, so rules were set up so that white people could retain control.

There weren't many opportunities for education for black people in Alabama, so **Rosa left school early and went to work in a department store**. On her journey to work, **she had to sit at the back of the bus on seats marked 'for coloured'**. If all these seats were taken but there were empty seats at the front 'for whites', she still had to stand at the back.

As she grew up, Rosa had to go to a school that was for black children only. She also had to walk to school because black children were not allowed to travel on the school bus.

Rosa married her husband in 1932. Together they joined the **NAACP** (the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People). This was an organisation run by both black and white people who **wanted to see an end to segregation**.

This is the bus that Rosa rode on. It is now in a museum.



When other African Americans heard what Rosa had done, they decided to **boycott the Montgomery buses** in support of her. The boycott lasted 381 days (more than a year!). **It was finally ruled by the courts that Montgomery buses would be integrated**.

One day in 1955, Rosa

was on a bus on her way home from work. She sat down in the front row of the 'coloured section'. However, the bus became full and **she was asked to move to give up her seat to a white man. She refused**.

The **Montgomery Bus Boycott** was the first mass protest against segregation. It was the first time so many Americans stood together against the unfair way in which African Americans were treated.

The bus driver called the police and **Rosa was arrested**. She was charged with breaking the segregation laws and was given a fine. **She refused to pay the fine. She said the laws weren't fair or legal**.