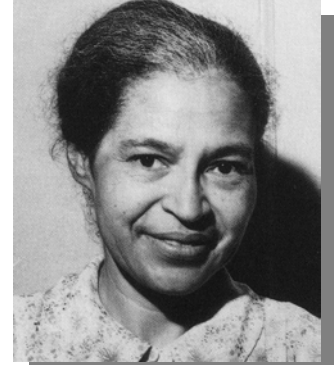


# The Civil Rights Movement

## Bus Boycotts 1955

On many buses throughout America Black people had to sit at the back of the bus, while whites sat at the front. In December 1955 Rosa Parks, a Black woman, sat down in a 'whites only' seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. When she refused to give up her seat to a white person she was arrested. Black people were disgusted by this and got together to form a boycott.

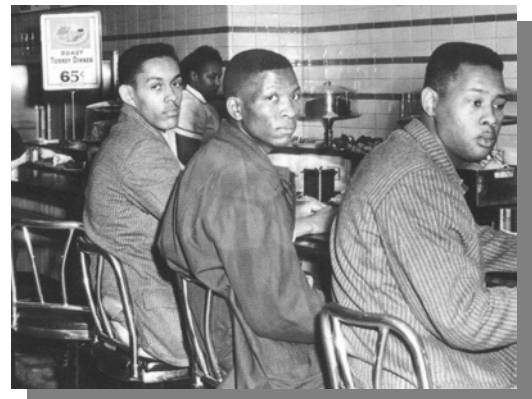


**Rosa Parks**

This movement found a leader in a young Black Christian preacher called Martin Luther King. Blacks got lifts to work or walked until the bus company banned segregation on its buses. In November 1956 the government ruled that segregation on buses was illegal. The Black protestors had won,

## Sit-ins 1960

In 1960 a group of Black students decided to go and sit in a Woolworth's all-white lunch bar and asked to be served. They sat there until they were dragged out, beaten up or arrested by the Police. Martin Luther King himself was arrested and imprisoned. The idea of protest spread and over 50,000 people joined in across America.



## The Freedom Rides 1961

In 1961, groups of young people, both Blacks and Whites, set out on 'Freedom Rides' across America. They rode together on Greyhound buses through Southern States like Alabama and Mississippi where Blacks and Whites were still kept apart on buses and in bus stations. The 'Freedom Riders' were beaten up, buses were burned and there was a riot in Montgomery but a lot of publicity was gained for their cause.

- 1/ How did the Bus Boycott put pressure on bus companies and the government to end segregation?
- 2/ Make a spider diagram to show the different ways that Black people protested against segregation and discrimination.
- 3/ Draw a table to show the **Benefits** and the **Problems** of non-violent protest.
- 4/ What evidence is there that not all white Americans were racist?