



Rosa Parks: Lesson Plan

Topic	
Rosa Parks spent her life working towards civil rights for Black Americans. She helped victims of discrimination find legal aid, taught activism to black youth, and organized and participated in acts of resistance to fight segregation. Rosa Parks was a radical advocate for change, not just a seamstress tired from a long day of work one fateful December day.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
History, Civil Rights, Human Rights, Politics, Philosophy	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/video/rosa-parks-an-activists-life/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
Students will be able to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe Rosa Parks' activism roots.• Explain why Rosa Parks took her stand on the bus.• Explain her affect on the Civil Rights Movement as a whole.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Civil Rights Movement, Montgomery Bus Boycott, NAACP	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access, Poster-making supplies	
Before you watch	
Think-pair-share: Have students tell each other what they know about Rosa Parks and prepare to share their combined knowledge with the class. Go around the class and have the students create their own narrative of who Rosa Parks was.	
While you watch	

1. What organization was Rosa Parks a member of?
2. Where did Rosa get her social justice training?
3. What action did Rosa Parks' arrest spark?

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why do you think Rosa Parks' legacy has been reduced to her defiance on the bus?
2. Do you think other civil rights leaders have experienced similar treatments to Rosa Parks? Why or why not?
3. How did Rosa Parks' experience as an activist help her when it came time to make her stand on the bus?

Activity Ideas

- **Compare & Contrast:** Do research on other civil rights activists and see how their activism was similar and different to Rosa's. Create a Venn diagram using your findings.
- **Journal Entry:** Reflect on how Rosa Parks' activism has affected the US today. How has the fight for racial equality evolved or stayed the same? Write down your thoughts in a paragraph or two.
- **Revise:** Work in groups to create a poster on Rosa Parks. Do your best to summarize her life and legacy as accurately as possible.

Sources/places to learn more

1. "The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks." *CUNY*, <https://rosaparksbiography.org/bio/>.
2. "Rosa Parks ignites bus boycott." *History*, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/rosa-parks-ignites-bus-boycot>
3. "Biography." *The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development*, <https://www.rosaparks.org/biography/>.
4. "Rosa Parks: Activist. Fighter. Hero." *Biographics*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYIBVYVJmQ>.