



Source 1: Who was Rosa Parks?

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1 Rosa Parks was an African American woman who was born on February 4, 1913. Ms. Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, to Leona and James McCauley. While growing up, she had a younger brother by the name of Sylvester. Rosa’s parents went their separate ways, and Rosa, Sylvester, and Leona moved to a small farm area in Pine Level.

2 While living in Pine Level, Rosa attended the local elementary school where her mom was a teacher. The local school consisted of only African American children; there was no mix of races in the schools.

3 Leona McCauley was a successful African American teacher and wanted her children to complete their education to obtain a diploma and later a degree. Rosa was able to complete elementary school and Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. She went on to attend Alabama Teacher State College in order to obtain her high school diploma. Unfortunately, Rosa was never able to complete school to get her diploma because of a family illness with her mother.

4 In 1932 Rosa met her soul mate, Raymond Parks, in Montgomery and married him later that year. Raymond and Rosa lived life together with no children. In 1977, Raymond Parks passed away. During their marriage, Rosa was able to return to school and obtain her high school diploma.

5 While living in the city of Montgomery as an adult, the city was very segregated. The segregation was very similar to the Pine Level School in Alabama that Rosa had attended in elementary. The white people and black people were not together but did everything separately. The places and events they attended were all segregated based on race.

6 Rosa would see signs for only one race and not the other race. Everything from water fountains to riding the bus was segregated. Often when Rosa would ride the bus, she would have to sit in the back of the bus or even stand if she needed to. She experienced racism of people of color sitting in the back of the bus while white people were able to sit at the front of the bus.

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Source 2: Montgomery Bus Boycott

7 On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks decided to fight back against segregation. Ms. Parks, along with all the other African American people, had to sit in the back of the buses while the white people were able to sit in the front. If there were no seats on the bus a black person, that had already been on the bus, had to get up and give their seat to the white person entering the bus.

8 Rosa Parks finally got tired of being treated like a second-class citizen. She and other African Americans were fed up with the segregation. One day after work, Rosa sat on the bus and did not give up her seat when a white person entering the bus came on. Rosa was immediately arrested and taken to jail. Rosa was instructed to pay a penalty fine of \$10 for not obeying the law. Of course, Ms. Parks did not pay the fine because of her beliefs of the segregation law not being fair to all.

9 The arrest of Rosa led to an uproar from the African American community. The African American leaders got together to discuss what happened and decided to do a boycott. NAACP began formed plans to organize the boycott of the city buses. The NAACP even got together to create flyers and newspaper ads to reach as many African Americans they could about not riding the city bus. The boycott would be to no longer ride the city bus as long as it took to change the segregation law. The boycott of the Montgomery buses lasted for a total of 381 days. The African American communities and leaders worked together to get to places that were needed without using the city bus. After a long boycott of over one year, the U.S. Supreme court ruled the segregation laws in Alabama to be unconstitutional.

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Source 3: Life After the Montgomery Bus Boycott

10 After the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks' arrest, her family had a difficult time. Rosa was fired from her full-time job working at a department store. Rosa Parks' husband was also fired from his job due to supporting his wife and the ongoing court case from the boycott on the Montgomery city bus. After searching around for work and unable to successfully find a job, the couple moved to Detroit, Michigan.

11 While in Detroit, Rosa and her husband's life began to improve. Both Rosa and Raymond were able to find a job to help support themselves. Rosa started off working as a secretary and receptionist in U.S. Representative John Conyer's congressional office. Later, Rosa became a part of Planned Parenthood. Rosa Parks served on the board of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

12 In 1987, Rosa and her friend Elaine Steele founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. The institute was designed to run the "Pathways to Freedom" bus tours. The bus tours helped to show the younger African Americans the Underground Railroad sites that were throughout the country. The Underground Railroad were secret routes that had safe houses in the United States. The Underground Railroad was used as a way for African American slaves to escape to freedom to free states. By the year 1850, it is believed that over 100,000 slaves had escaped to freedom using the Underground Railroad.

13 In 1992, Rosa wrote her autobiography. In her book, *My Story*, Rosa talked about her life and the segregation she experienced in Montgomery. Three years later, Rosa went on to publish another book. The book titled *Quiet Strength* was about how Rosa used her religion to help her overcome the struggle and fight she had throughout her life.

14 Rosa received many awards during her lifetime. She received the Spingarn Medal from NAACP, Martin Luther King Jr. Award, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom by former President Bill Clinton (1996). She continued to receive awards for her courage and continued faith in helping to create a change in segregation.

15 In October 2005, Rosa Parks died in her home having suffered from progressive dementia.

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Ben Franklin

Source 1: The Pioneer Ben

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1 Ben Franklin is an important figure in United States History. He played a major role in the development and growth of our country. He is well-known as a pioneer of many innovations that have changed the way Americans live and work.



2 One important way that Ben Franklin has impacted our country was by being one of the founders of the first public hospital in the United States. The Pennsylvania Hospital was the first public hospital in our country and was founded in 1751. Before this time, there was no health system for the poor. Thankfully, Ben Franklin and the other founders helped change this. Today, our public health system is modeled after the Pennsylvania Hospital. Ben Franklin and the other founders helped pave the way for health care for our country's citizens.

3 Have you ever visited a public library? Most likely, you have on more than one occasion and have enjoyed reading many different books. We can thank Ben Franklin for the public library system we have today in our country. In the early 18th century, wealthy people had access to books in their private libraries. Ben Franklin wanted more people to have access to books, so in 1751, he created the concept of a subscription library. Members paid a subscription fee and shared books with other members. Our public library system today is modeled after Ben Franklin's subscription library. Thank you, Ben Franklin, for providing us access to a plethora of reading material.

4 We can also thank Ben Franklin for establishing many of the routines and systems that our postal offices continue to use today. At one time Ben Franklin was our country's Postmaster General. During this time, he created regular mail routes, a standard fee structure, and an internal auditing system. The creation of these systems still continues to help our post offices run smoothly today.

5 At school, you regularly have fire drills and learn about how to stay safe if there is ever a fire at school or at home. We also rely on our local fire departments to help keep people safe if there is ever a fire in our town or community. Many of our local fire departments are volunteer fire departments. Ben Franklin organized the first volunteer fire department in 1752 in Philadelphia. His volunteer fire department was successful, and as a result led to the development of volunteer fire departments. In addition, Ben Franklin also established the first fire insurance company in 1752. When subscribers paid a fee, they were guaranteed their property would be repaired or replaced if it was damaged during a fire.

6 As you can see, Ben Franklin was an important pioneer in our country's history. He helped pave the way for many of our organizations that continue to play an important role in our communities today.

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Source 2: Inventor Ben Franklin

7 Ben Franklin was a curious man who loved to ask questions and enjoyed performing experiments. He is well known for his many inventions that have had a significant impact on our country. His observations or his personal needs inspired most of his inventions.

8 Franklin is most famous for his invention or discovery of electricity. In 1751 he published the book *Observations on Electricity*. Then in 1752, he performed the famous kite experiment. During the experiment, Ben Franklin flew a kite during a thunderstorm. His goal was to prove his idea that electricity had positive and negative elements and that electricity flowed between these two elements. He also wanted to prove that lightning was a form of electricity. While he was flying a kite, he tied a metal key to the string of the kite to conduct electricity. He was successful in proving his theory and very lucky that he did not get hurt when the electricity traveled down the string of the kite and gave him a shock.

9 Ben Franklin is also known for inventing bifocals. Bifocals are glasses with an upper and lower half. The upper part is used for seeing far away, and the lower part is used for reading. He was inspired to create the bifocals because he had bad eyesight and got tired of switching between two different eyeglasses, one to help him see far away and one to help him see things up close. His invention helped him see everything around him while wearing just one pair of glasses. The invention of the bifocal continues to help many people see better today.

10 Another one of Ben Franklin's well-known inventions is the odometer. The purpose of the odometer was to keep track of how many miles a vehicle traveled. Ben Franklin was inspired to create the odometer because when he was the postmaster, he was curious to find out how many miles his postal carriage traveled daily. Although people no longer ride carriages to get from place to place, vehicles continue to use odometers to keep track of mileage today.

11 Ben Franklin also invented what became known as the Franklin Stove. The Franklin Stove was an iron furnace stove that used less wood while at the same time, creating more warmth. This was a much safer way to keep homes warm at this time. Ben Franklin was inspired to invent the Franklin Stove because he noticed that many people burned wood in their fireplaces for warmth even though many houses were made of wood. He also noticed they were using a lot of wood to stay warm. Thanks to Ben Franklin, people at that time were able to stay warm more safely and efficiently.

12 Ben Franklin will forever be remembered for his many useful inventions. Thanks to his curiosity and problem-solving strategies, we continue to use many of his inventions today.

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