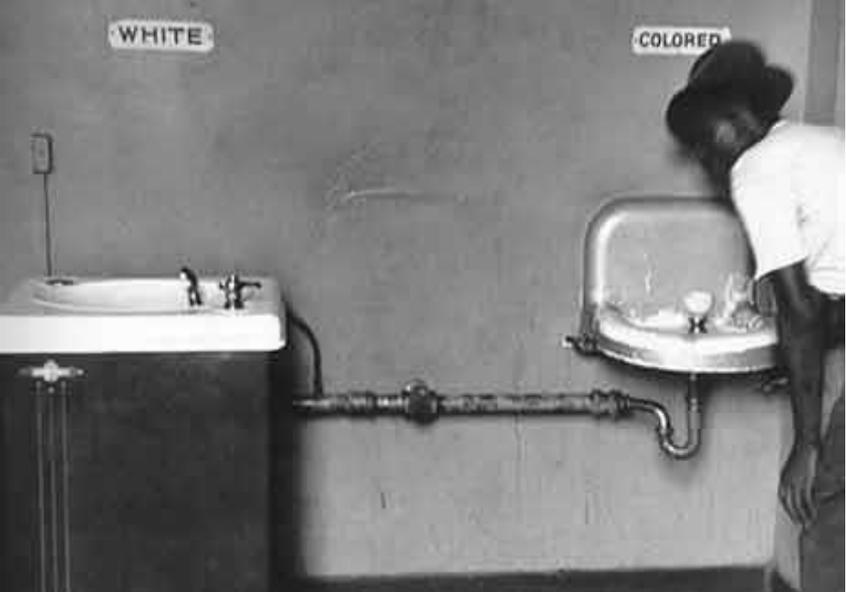


# HOW DID ROSA PARKS STAND UP TO RACISM?

*Year 6 Welcome to History*

**Focus:** To describe the key events and impact of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



**Can you link these images?**



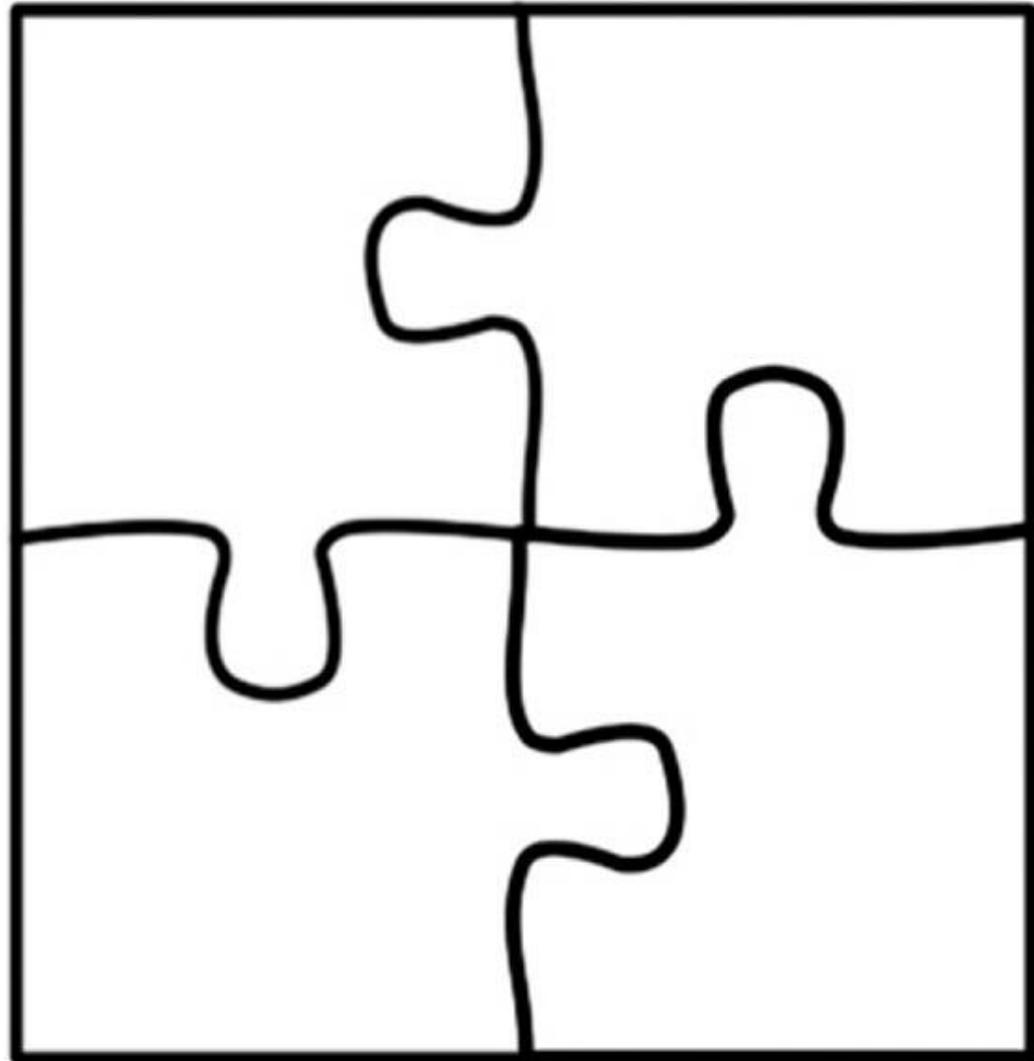
# BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 1950s America black people were treated unfairly. One person who tried to change this was Rosa Parks.

At that time, southern states in America had something called 'segregation'. This meant people of different skin colours had separate schools, restaurants, and even toilets. Segregation happened on buses too.

# ACTIVATE:

Look at the images –  
can you think of 4  
different words that  
link them together?



# **EXPLAIN: THE STORY OF ROSA PARKS:**

Growing up in Alabama, Rosa struggled to understand why black and white people were treated differently. One day she refused to give up her seat to a white person which was against the law. Her story tells us how her arrest led to a protest which was to start a journey towards equality and justice and bring change to American society.

# TASK 1:

Look at all the words on this slide and choose 9 of them, writing 1 in each of the boxes in your booklet.

As you listen to the song, mark off each of the words as you hear them.

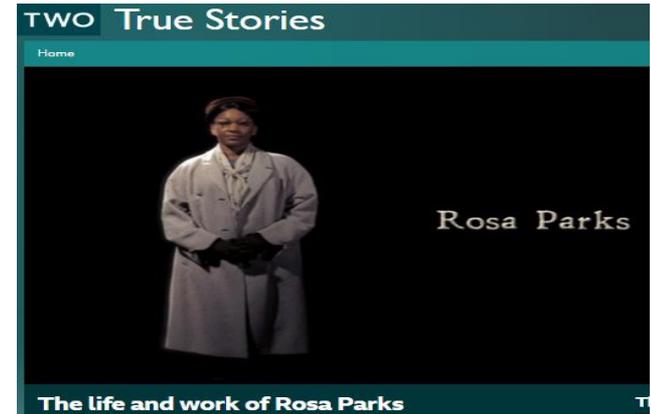
Link to the song:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/horrible-histories-song-rosa-parks-sat-on-a-bus>

Words to choose from:

Rosa Parks  
Civil Rights  
bus  
Whites in front,  
blacks behind  
Montgomery  
white man  
slammer  
1955  
trial  
boycott  
legislation  
segregation  
Martin Luther King  
President

## TASK 2:



We use buses every day to go to school or into town. It's not unusual, but this story is about a bus journey that changed millions of lives. Let's go to America, in 1955, to Montgomery in the southern state of Alabama.

There, when a woman called Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, a bus journey became very important. Rosa's refusal was a protest about racism against black people. One day, Rosa was in a seat for black people, but white people's seats were full. The bus driver wanted Rosa to give her seat to a white person, but Rosa said no! She was arrested and taken to jail for a few hours.

Rosa didn't fight alone, people organised a bus boycott, which meant they stopped using buses for a year. They walked instead. This bus company lost a lot of money. The boycott was a peaceful stand against racism.

***Now, watch the following video which tells the story of Rosa Parks:***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0160x5y>

***Answer the questions in your booklet as you watch.***

# PRACTISE: BEING ROSA PARKS:

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for just over a year and has since become part of African-American history. Rosa's protest eventually led to racial segregation on buses ending - a decision that was met with opposition and violence. It was also responsible for helping bring Martin Luther King to the forefront of the civil rights movement. As a result of her protest, Rosa and her husband Raymond both lost their jobs. They left Montgomery and moved to Detroit where Rosa became a secretary and receptionist for a US politician.

**Task:** *imagine you are Rosa Parks. Answer the questions in your booklet explaining why you did what you did.*



My name is...

When the bus driver asked me to move I felt...

The reason why I did not move is because...

My actions were important because...



# Year 6 History Challenge sheet: why not see how many of these activities you can do with your family or on your own. Email us to show us what you have done.

<p><b>Something to watch:</b></p> <p>Watch the Rosa episode of Dr Who: episode 3 of series 11 – available on iplayer.</p> 	<p><b>Something to write:</b></p> <p>Imagine you are a journalist who has been given the task of writing about Rosa and the Bus Boycott. Describe the events, including an interview with Rosa.</p> 
<p><b>Something to read:</b></p> <p>The Doctor Who episode was written by Malorie Blackman who wrote Noughts &amp; Crosses.</p> 	<p><b>Something to research:</b></p> <p>Take a look at the BBC's Black History month collection to find out about other key individuals and civil rights protests: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month</a></p> 
<p><b>Something to create:</b></p> <p>Produce a Tik Tok video, song, poem or drama to show what happened on the bus.</p>	<p><b>Something to draw or paint:</b></p> <p>Produce a poster celebrating Rosa Parks and her refusal to give up her seat.</p> 