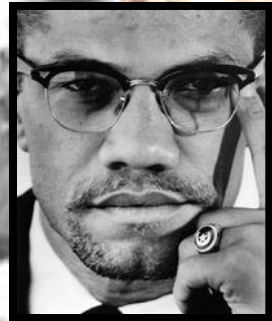


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The American Overhaul





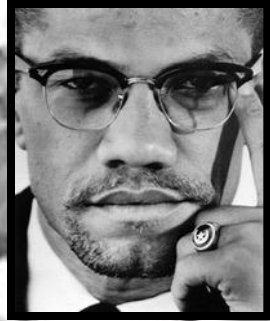
TODAY'S UNIT & LESSON



Lesson 5

(AH 5.05)

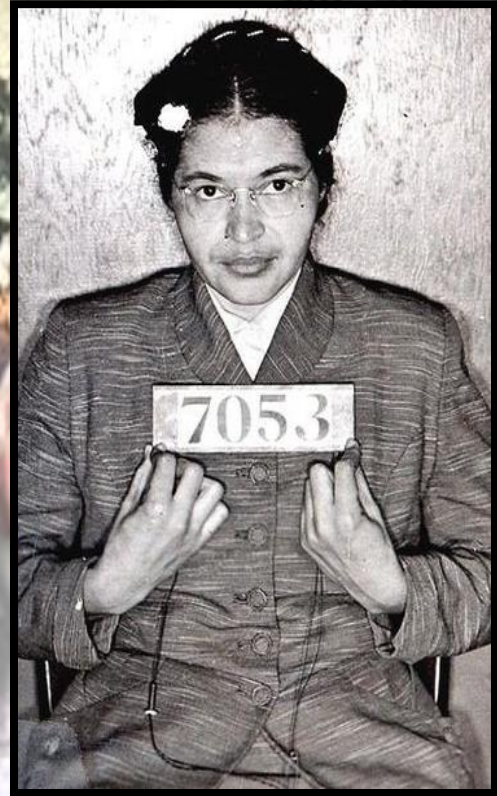


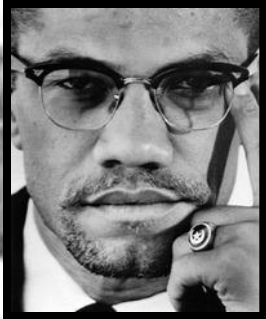


Civil Rights Battle #6: *Montgomery Bus Boycott*

Shortly after 5pm on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a 5'3", 42-year-old black woman, **clocked out from her job** as a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair Department Store in AL.

As she did most days after work, **Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus.**



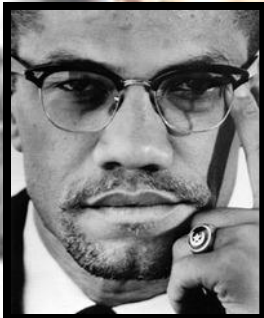


CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

She rode this bus for a mile and a half (about 20 minutes) back to her apartment where she lived with her husband Raymond.

But things did not go according to plan that night.





CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

Encountering a standing-room-only bus and having been on her feet all day operating a huge steam press, **Parks** decided to do some Christmas shopping while waiting for a less crowded bus.

Around 6pm, Parks boarded Bus #2857.

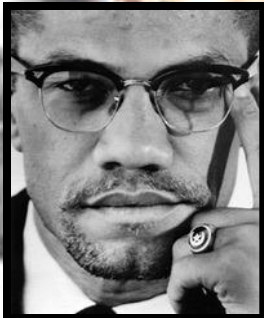


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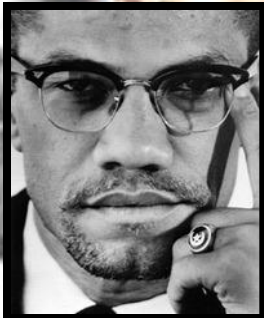


CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



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CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



There are 5 myths about what happened next.



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FALSE!



Myth #1: Rosa Parks sat in the whites-only section of the bus.

Municipal buses in Montgomery, AL had 36 seats.

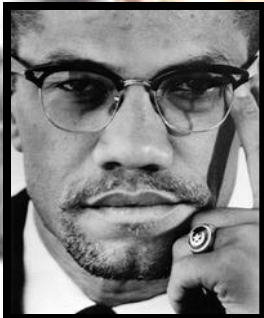
The first 10 seats were reserved for whites only.

The last 10 seats were (in theory) reserved for blacks.

The middle 16 were first-come-first serve.



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Myth #1: Rosa Parks sat in the whites-only section of the bus.



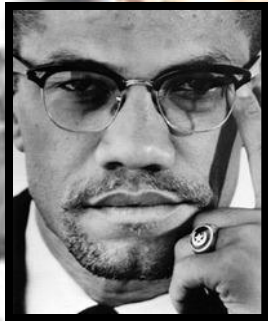
The bus driver retained the authority to rearrange seats so whites could be given priority.



Keep in mind that in Montgomery, 75% of all bus riders were black.

Blacks were not allowed to sit across the aisle from whites.





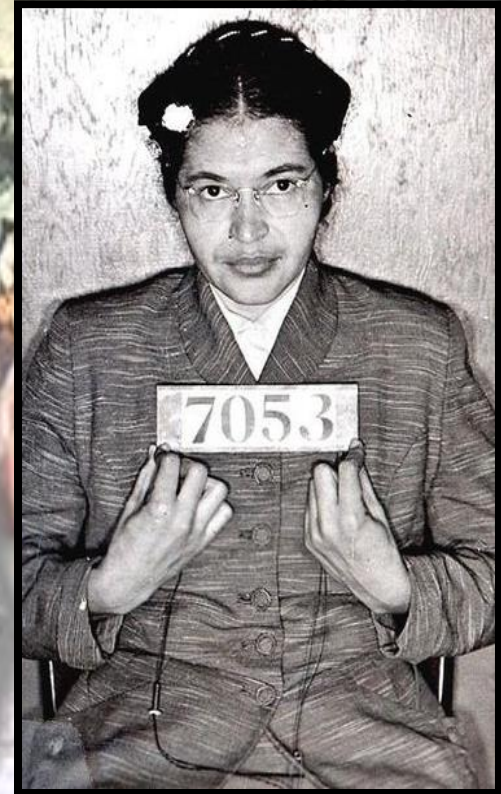
Myth #1: Rosa Parks sat in the whites-only section of the bus.

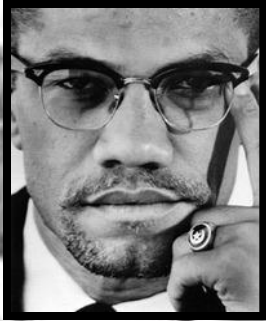


If whites were already in the front, blacks often had to get on the bus to pay the fare... then had to get off and *reenter* through the rear door.



Sometimes the bus took off *before* the black customers who had paid made it to the back entrance.





Myth #1: Rosa Parks sat in the whites-only section of the bus.

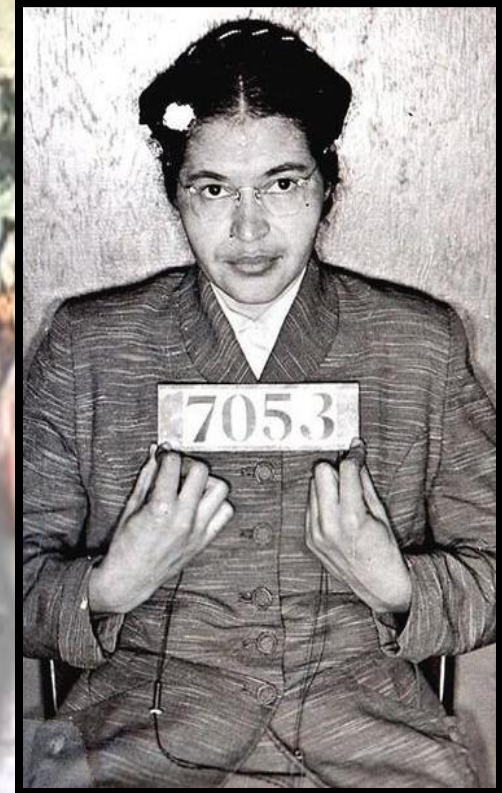


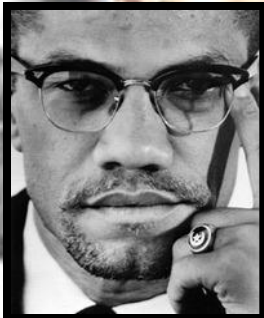
That night, Parks sat in an aisle seat on the front row of the middle section.



To her left, across the aisle, were two black women.

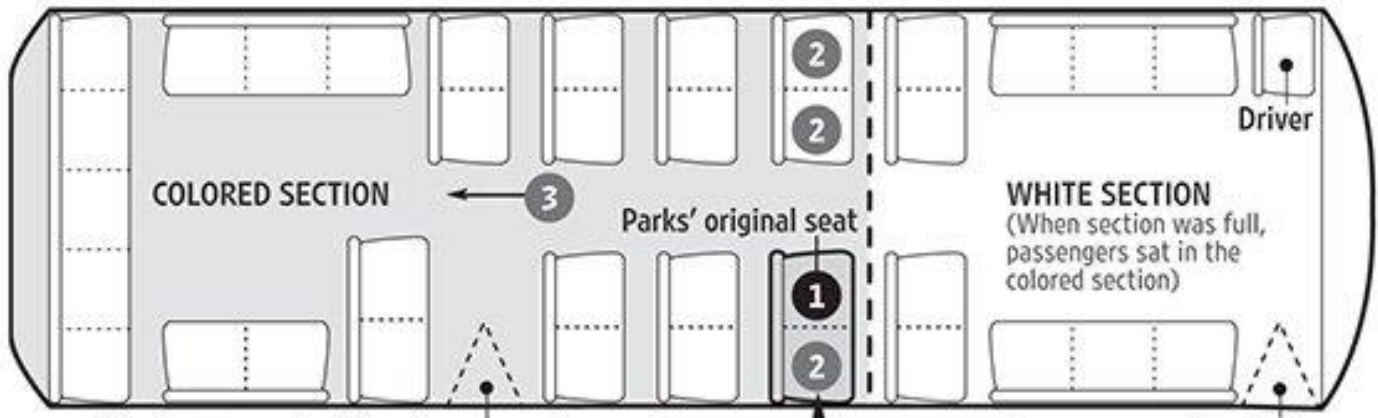
To her right, in the window seat, was a black man.





What happened on the bus

- 1** Rosa Parks boarded the bus and sat at an aisle seat in the designated colored section.
- 2** Three stops later, the driver told Parks and 3 other blacks in her row to move to the back to make room for a white man.
- 3** The 3 blacks moved to the back; Parks slid to an adjacent window seat and refused to move.
- 4** Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat at the request of the bus driver.



Sources: "Quiet Strength" by Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed; "Rosa Parks" by Douglas Brinkley; The Henry Ford; www.archives.gov

NOVIA KNIGHT/Detroit Free Press



FALSE!



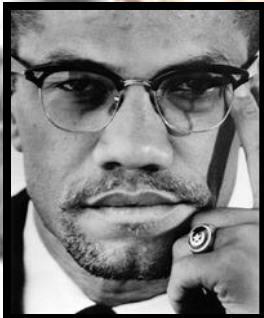
Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.

A few minutes later, when the bus reached the third stop in front of the Empire Theater, several white passengers boarded, and **driver James E. Blake** noticed a white man standing near the front.



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Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.

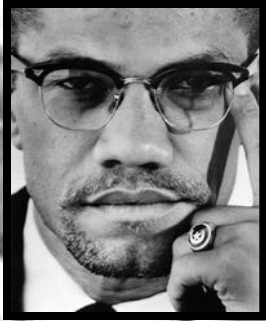


He called out for the four black passengers in Parks' row to move to the back, where they would have to stand as all of the seats were now taken.



They did not respond.





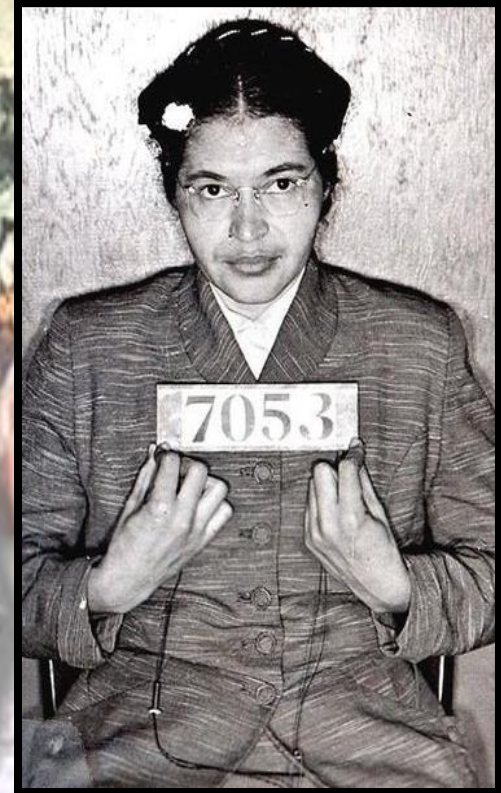
Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.

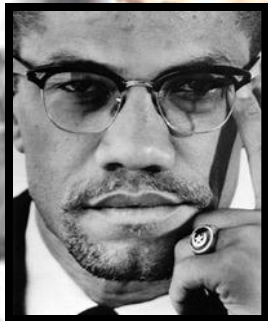


Blake got out of his seat and instructed the four to move, saying, "Y'all better make it light on yourselves and let me have those seats."



Three of the blacks went and stood in the back.

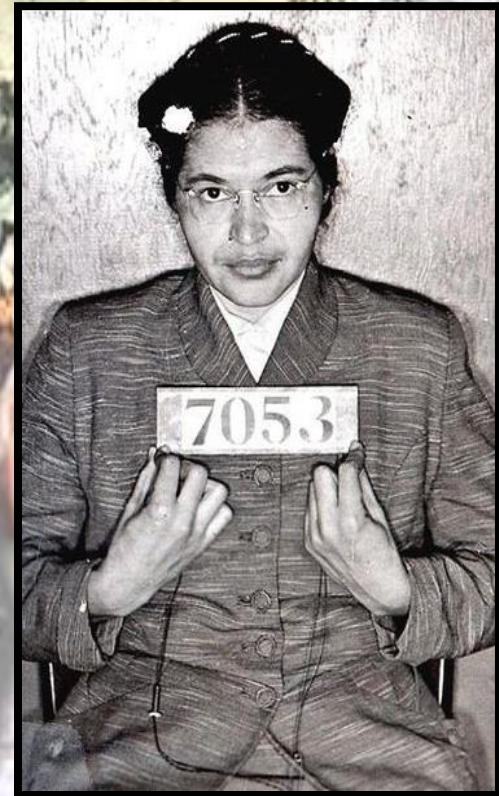


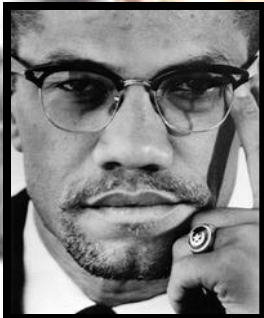


Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



Parks, however, refused to get up, sliding from the aisle seat to the window seat, which would have allowed for the white passenger to sit in any of the three seats in her row.





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



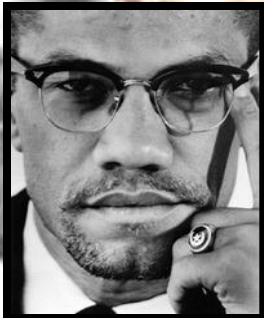
The bus driver then asked Parks, **“Are you going to stand up?”**



Parks looked him in the eye and responded with a quiet but resolute, **“Nah.”**

Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.

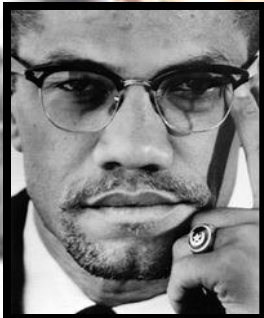


Parks then explained that she had gotten on board first, that she paid the same bus fare, that she wasn't sitting in the white section, and that this was not an actual violation of the city ordinance.



Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



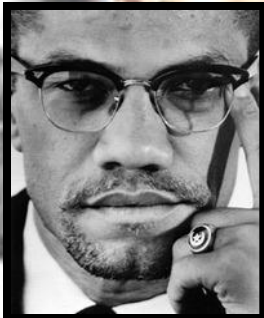
Blake said, "I'm going to have you arrested."



Parks said, "You may do that."

Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.

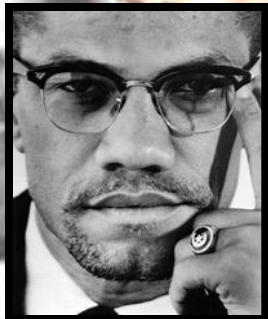


Blake called his supervisor, who advised him that after warning the passenger he had to exercise his power and get Parks off the bus.



Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



Blake radioed the **police, who sent officers F. B. Day and D. W. Mixon. They **peacefully arrested Parks, using no force (as none was needed since she willingly allowed them to remove her).****

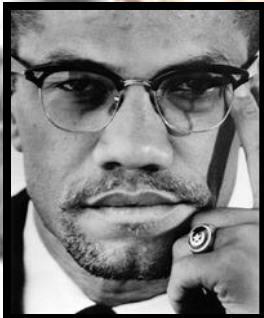


Nah.

- Rosa Parks, 1955



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Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



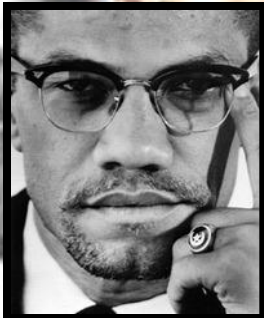
Parks said, *“Why do you push us around?”*



Officer Day responded, *“I don’t know, but the law is the law, and you’re under arrest.”*

Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





Myth #2: If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.



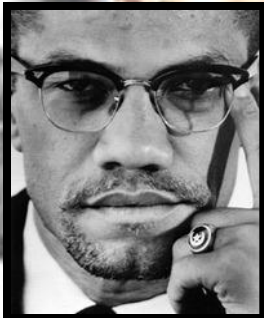
Parks was driven to the city jail where she **was booked and put in** a dark and musty **cell**.



Parks' boss (and friend), **NAACP President E. D. Nixon**, bailed her out that evening.

Nah.
- Rosa Parks, 1955





CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



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FALSE!



Myth #3: This was Rosa Park's first conflict with that bus driver.

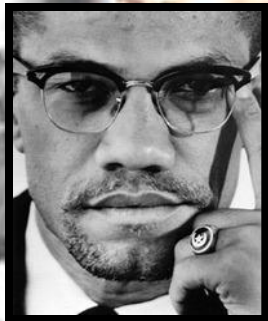
If Parks had known this bus was being driven by Blake, she might not have gotten on.

Blake had a reputation for spitting tobacco juice, using derogatory language toward blacks, and often drove off.



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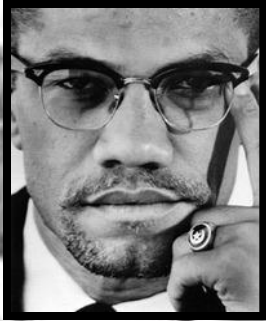


Myth #3: This was Rosa Park's first conflict with that bus driver.



In fact, 12 years earlier, in 1943, Blake made Parks exit and re-enter his bus through the crowded rear entrance after she had already boarded the front. Parks refused, so Blake grabbed her and tried to push her off the bus.



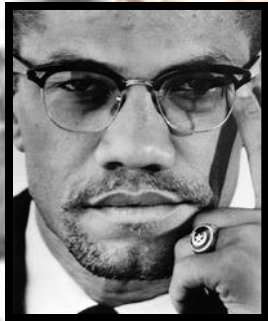


Myth #3: This was Rosa Park's first conflict with that bus driver.



Parks intentionally dropped her purse and sat down in the white section to retrieve it. As she looked at Blake, she warned him, *"I will get off... you better not hit me."*

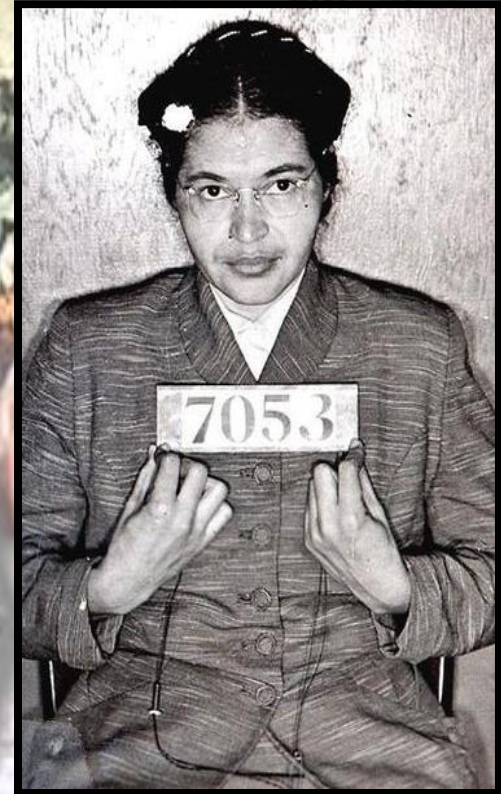




Myth #3: This was Rosa Park's first conflict with that bus driver.



For the next 12 years, Parks intentionally avoided riding on Blake's bus. But on December 1, 1955, she boarded without noticing Blake was the driver.



FALSE!

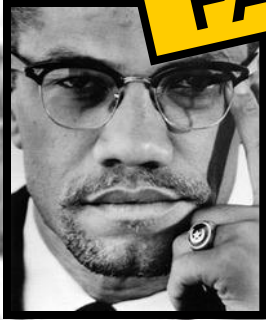


Myth #4: Rosa Parks refused to stand up because she was tired.

Parks always tried to set the record straight. She **said**:

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I was at the end of a working day.

No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”



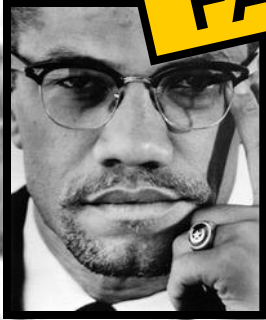
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FALSE!

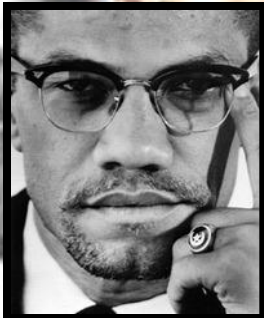


Myth #5: Rosa Parks was the first black woman to exercise civil disobedience on a Montgomery bus.

Nearly nine months before Park's famous arrest, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin, was arrested on a Montgomery bus for refusing to give her seat to a white passenger.



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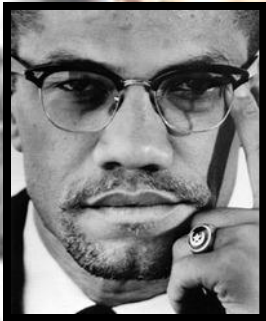


Myth #5: Rosa Parks was the first black woman to exercise civil disobedience on a Montgomery bus.



The bus driver ordered her to get up, but she refused, saying she'd paid her fare and it was her constitutional right. Two police officers handcuffed her and physically removed from the bus.

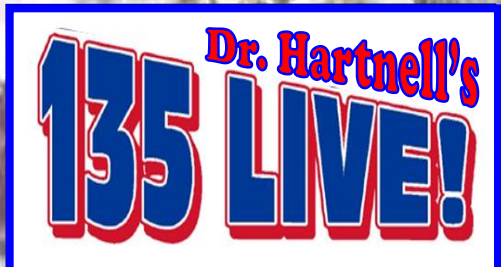


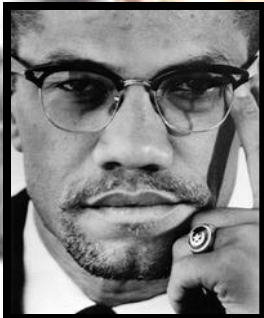


Myth #5: Rosa Parks was the first black woman to exercise civil disobedience on a Montgomery bus.



Although **Colvin's actions** would not be the precipitating factor in the bus boycott, they **did inspire Parks**, who served as an activist and secretary with the Montgomery NAACP.





CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

On December 5, 1955, the Monday after Parks was arrested, 26-year old **Martin Luther King, Jr.** began the **Montgomery Bus Boycott.**

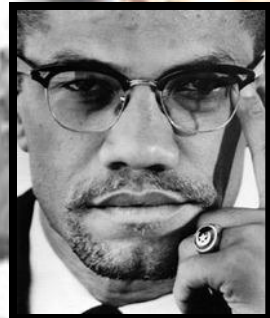


Blacks boycotted using the city's **buses for 380 days.**



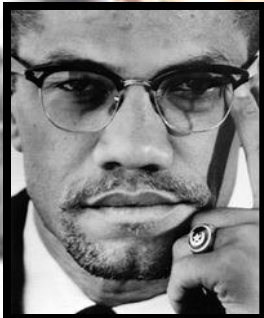


CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

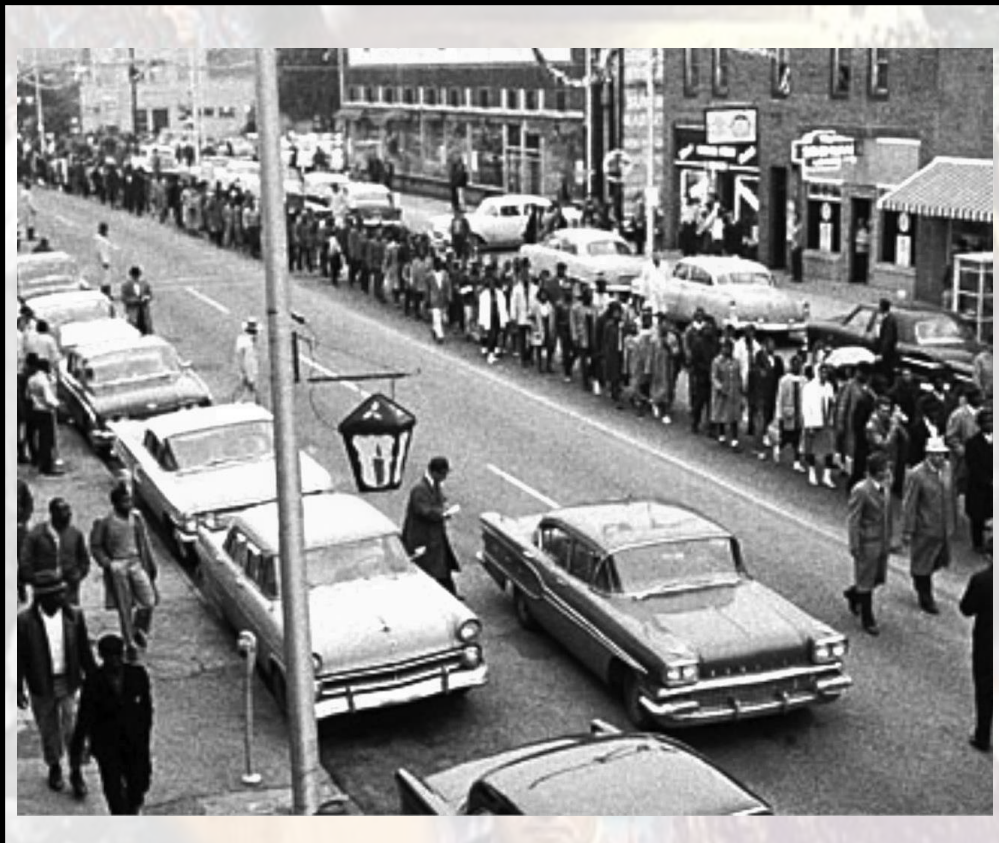


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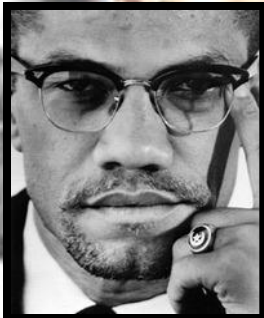




CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



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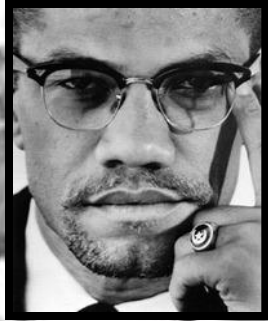


CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



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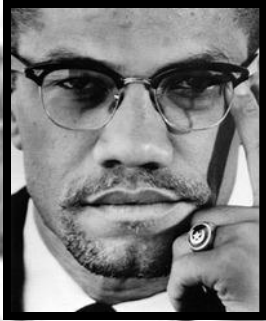


CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

While the boycott was underway, **Colvin** joined four other plaintiffs in the court case *Browder v. Gayle*, challenging the bus segregation in Montgomery.

On November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.





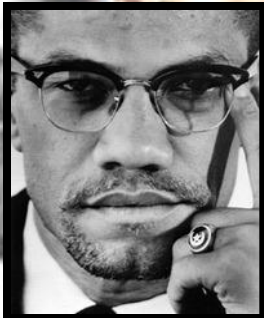
CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

On December 20, 1956, 1 year and 15 days after it began, the Montgomery Bus **Boycott** ended.



The **boycott cost** the busses **\$3,000/day (\$1.14 million total)**. In today's money, that works out to **\$28,170/day (\$10.7 million total)**.





CRB6: *Bus Boycott*

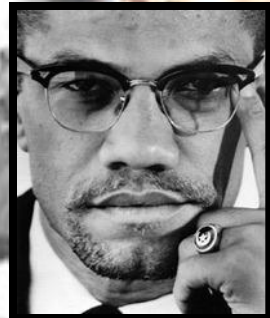


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CRB6: *Bus Boycott*



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WHAT
DID WE
LEARN
TODAY?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 5 (AH 5.05)

QUESTION

1



1. Explain Myth #1 about Rosa Parks' fateful night by answering the following:

- a. What is the myth?
- b. Why is the myth false?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 5 (AH 5.05)

QUESTION

2



2. Explain Myth #2 about Rosa Parks' fateful night by answering the following:

- a. What is the myth?
- b. Why is the myth false?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 5 (AH 5.05)

QUESTION

3



3. Explain Myth #3 about Rosa Parks' fateful night by answering the following:

- a. What is the myth?
- b. Why is the myth false?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 5 (AH 5.05)

QUESTION

4



4. Explain Myth #4 about Rosa Parks' fateful night by answering the following:

- a. What is the myth?
- b. Why is the myth false?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 5 (AH 5.05)

QUESTION

5



5. Explain Myth #5 about Rosa Parks' fateful night by answering the following:

- What is the myth?
- Why is the myth false?

! THINK

✓ CHECK

> SUBMIT



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