Alabama Sparks Change

Trace how local protests helped change national laws

SS24.5.12 "Outline key events and campaigns of the Civil Rights Movement and identify significant organizations and their contributions within the Movement. 12a Describe ways in which the Civil Rights Movement sought to create change..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three Alabama protest campaigns, circle the people and groups who helped lead them, and number the three legal changes from first to last.

From Bus Stops to Bridges

1. In 1955, police arrested Rosa Parks after she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. Jo Ann Robinson and the Women's Political Council printed flyers calling for a bus boycott. Thousands of ordinary riders walked or shared cars instead of riding segregated buses. The boycott lasted more than a year. In 1956, a Supreme Court ruling ended segregation on Montgomery buses, showing that organized protest could win change.

2. In 1963, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) helped lead marches in Birmingham against segregation. Children and other foot soldiers joined the protests. Birmingham police used fire hoses and police dogs against protesters. News images shocked people across the country and increased support for change. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, which banned segregation in public places. Birmingham showed how local action could push national leaders to act.

3. In 1965, Alabama-born John Lewis helped lead a voting rights march from Selma. State troopers attacked marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, stopping their march. The violence drew national attention. Later marches reached Montgomery, and Congress passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The law helped protect access to voting. From bus stops to bridges, Alabamians faced opposition, while their actions helped shape changes across the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Women's Political Council help turn Rosa Parks's arrest into a larger protest?

2. How did Birmingham police try to stop the protests, and what effect did their actions have across the country?

3. Which came first, the end of bus segregation in Montgomery or the Civil Rights Act? What change did each bring?

4. What role did John Lewis play at Selma, and how did events there affect voting rights across the country?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label that connects the Montgomery boycott, Birmingham protests, and Selma marches in time order. Explain one way actions in Alabama helped bring national change, and name one person and one organization from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama Sparks Change

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three Alabama protest campaigns, circle the people and groups who helped lead them, and number the three legal changes from first to last. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Women's Political Council help turn Rosa Parks's arrest into a larger protest?	**The group printed flyers calling for a bus boycott. Thousands of riders then walked or shared cars instead of riding the buses.**
2	How did Birmingham police try to stop the protests, and what effect did their actions have across the country?	**Police used fire hoses and dogs against protesters. News images shocked people across the country and increased support for change.**
3	Which came first, the end of bus segregation in Montgomery or the Civil Rights Act? What change did each bring?	**A Supreme Court ruling ended segregation on Montgomery buses in 1956. The Civil Rights Act banned segregation in public places in 1964.**
4	What role did John Lewis play at Selma, and how did events there affect voting rights across the country?	**Lewis helped lead a voting rights march. The attack on marchers drew national attention, and Congress passed the Voting Rights Act later that year.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1955, Jo Ann Robinson and the Women's Political Council spread word of the Montgomery bus boycott after Rosa Parks's arrest. A court ruling ended bus segregation there in 1956. In 1963, Birmingham marchers faced police violence, and news of the attacks helped build support for the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In 1965, John Lewis helped lead marchers at Selma, where an attack drew national attention before Congress passed the Voting Rights Act.

Accept other accurate descriptions of how Alabama protests and the responses to them influenced national change. For the museum label, check for four sentences, chronological order, a national connection, one named person, and one named organization.