Paths to Change

How people challenged unfair rules during the Civil Rights Movement

SS24.5.12a "Describe ways in which the Civil Rights Movement sought to create change."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions people took to challenge unfair rules. Circle the changes they sought or helped bring about.

Three Ways to Seek Change

1. In 1955, Black riders in Montgomery, Alabama, were told to give up bus seats to white riders. After Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing, many people stopped riding city buses. They walked or shared rides for more than a year. The boycott cut into bus fares and showed that riders could act together. A court ruling, upheld by the Supreme Court, eventually ended segregation on Montgomery buses.

2. In 1960, four Black college students sat at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they were refused service. They stayed seated without fighting. Soon, more students joined sit-ins at counters in other cities. Their peaceful actions made unfair rules hard to ignore. Some stores changed their rules after protests and lost business. Sit-ins showed that people could challenge segregation by refusing to leave a place that excluded them.

3. In 1965, people marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to demand fair voting rights for Black citizens. Many Black voters faced unfair tests and threats that kept them from the polls. Marchers carried their message into public view, and news reports brought it to people across the country. That year, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which banned many unfair voting rules. Marching helped build support for changing the law.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the bus boycott put pressure on the city to change its rule?

2. How did sit-ins help students push stores to change their rules?

3. How did the Selma march help people seek change in voting rules?

4. How were the boycott and sit-ins different ways to challenge segregation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town in the 1960s that will not lend library books to Black residents. Write four sentences describing two different peaceful actions people could take and how each action might help change the library's rule.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions people took to challenge unfair rules. Circle the changes they sought or helped bring about. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the bus boycott put pressure on the city to change its rule?	**Riders stopped using city buses, which cut into bus fares and showed that they could act together.**
2	How did sit-ins help students push stores to change their rules?	**Students stayed at counters where they were refused service. Their peaceful protests drew attention to unfair rules, and some stores lost business and changed their rules.**
3	How did the Selma march help people seek change in voting rules?	**The march brought the demand for fair voting rights into public view and helped build support for changing the law.**
4	How were the boycott and sit-ins different ways to challenge segregation?	**Bus riders refused to use segregated buses, while students stayed seated at lunch counters that refused to serve them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents could hold a peaceful gathering outside the library and ask for equal borrowing rights. This would show the town how many people want the rule changed. Neighbors could stop using the library until it lends books to everyone. Losing visitors could push library leaders to change the rule.

Accept answers that connect an action in the passage to the change people sought or helped bring about. For Your Turn, accept two distinct peaceful actions with a plausible explanation of how each could help change the library's rule.