Change in Motion

Trace how collective action reshaped U.S. laws and institutions

SS24.S.11b "Describe how social movements, including the Civil Rights Movement, have created change throughout the history of the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one action activists took and circle one change it helped create. Give each linked pair the same number.

When People Organized

(1) In 1917, women demanding the vote stood outside the White House with signs addressed to President Woodrow Wilson. Police arrested some picketers, but the arrests drew more attention to their cause. For decades, suffragists had also organized state campaigns, given speeches, and pressed lawmakers. Their work helped bring about the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which barred denying the vote on the basis of sex. The amendment did not remove every voting barrier: many Black women in the South still faced racist restrictions. The victory changed the Constitution, while the struggle to make voting rights real continued.

(2) In 1911, a fire at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist factory killed 146 workers. Some exit doors were locked, making escape harder. Labor organizers and reformers used the disaster to press for safer workplaces. New York enacted stronger factory safety rules. Workers also formed unions, held strikes, and demanded a voice in pay and working conditions. Years of labor organizing helped build support for the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, which protected collective bargaining for many private-sector workers. The law excluded farmworkers and domestic workers. The movement changed both workplace rules and workers' legal power, although not everyone gained the same protections.

(3) In 1955, after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat, Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, organized a bus boycott. For 381 days, they walked, carpooled, and kept pressure on city leaders. A Supreme Court ruling ended segregation on Montgomery buses. Activists across the Civil Rights Movement used boycotts, marches, and lawsuits to challenge segregation and unequal voting rules. Their efforts helped win the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned segregation in public accommodations, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which strengthened federal protection of voting rights. Legal victories did not erase racism, but they changed what governments could permit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did suffragists' actions draw attention to their cause, and what constitutional change did their work help bring about?

2. How did labor organizers seek change after the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and what two kinds of change does the passage describe?

3. What did Montgomery residents do to keep pressure on city leaders, and what change followed?

4. How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 change different parts of public life?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two movements from the passage. In one paragraph, explain a strategy they shared, how each helped create a different kind of change, and one barrier that remained after a victory.

ANSWER KEY

Change in Motion

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.S.11b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one action activists took and circle one change it helped create. Give each linked pair the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did suffragists' actions draw attention to their cause, and what constitutional change did their work help bring about?	**Picketing outside the White House, followed by arrests, drew attention to the demand for voting rights. Suffragists' work helped bring about the Nineteenth Amendment, which barred denying the vote on the basis of sex.**
2	How did labor organizers seek change after the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and what two kinds of change does the passage describe?	**Organizers and reformers pressed for safer workplaces, and workers formed unions and held strikes. New York strengthened factory safety rules, and a later federal law protected collective bargaining for many private-sector workers.**
3	What did Montgomery residents do to keep pressure on city leaders, and what change followed?	**Residents sustained a bus boycott by walking and carpooling for 381 days. A Supreme Court ruling ended segregation on Montgomery buses.**
4	How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 change different parts of public life?	**The Civil Rights Act banned segregation in public accommodations. The Voting Rights Act strengthened federal protection of voting rights.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The suffrage movement and the Civil Rights Movement both used public demonstrations to make injustice visible. Suffragists picketed the White House, and civil rights activists marched against segregation and unequal voting rules. Suffragists helped win a constitutional amendment barring denial of the vote on the basis of sex, while civil rights activists helped win a federal law banning segregation in public accommodations. Yet the amendment did not end racist voting barriers that many Black women in the South faced.

Accept other accurate action-to-change links supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a shared strategy, a distinct change linked to each movement, and a barrier that remained.