People Who Changed America

Connect leaders' actions to changes in rights and daily life.

5.SS.1.2 "Identify significant individuals who have been responsible for bringing about cultural and social changes in the United States including the founding fathers and presidents."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person's name and circle an action that person took. Draw an arrow from each action to a change it helped bring about.

Actions That Made a Difference

1. In 1791, people in the new United States were still deciding how their government should work. James Madison, a Founding Father, helped write the Bill of Rights. These first ten changes to the Constitution protect freedoms such as speech and religion. Madison's work changed the rules of government. People could point to written rights when they spoke out or practiced their beliefs.

2. More than seventy years later, President Abraham Lincoln faced a nation divided by the Civil War. In 1863, his Emancipation Proclamation declared enslaved people free in states rebelling against the United States. It did not end slavery everywhere. Lincoln also urged Congress to pass an amendment ending slavery nationwide. The Thirteenth Amendment became part of the Constitution in 1865, after Lincoln's death.

3. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white rider in Montgomery, Alabama. Her arrest helped spark a bus boycott against unfair rules for Black riders. Martin Luther King Jr. helped lead the boycott and urged people to protest without violence. The boycott helped end segregation on Montgomery buses. Parks and King helped build a wider movement for equal rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which Founding Father helped change the rules of government, and name one freedom his work helped protect.

2. Which president worked to end slavery nationwide, and what change did he urge Congress to make?

3. Which person helped spark a protest against unfair bus rules, and what did she do?

4. Which leader urged people to protest without violence, and what change did the boycott help bring about?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two people from different paragraphs. In three sentences, describe the change each worked for and explain one difference in how they worked for change.

ANSWER KEY

People Who Changed America

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each person's name and circle an action that person took. Draw an arrow from each action to a change it helped bring about. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which Founding Father helped change the rules of government, and name one freedom his work helped protect.	**James Madison helped write the Bill of Rights, which protects freedom of speech or religion.**
2	Which president worked to end slavery nationwide, and what change did he urge Congress to make?	**Abraham Lincoln urged Congress to pass an amendment ending slavery nationwide.**
3	Which person helped spark a protest against unfair bus rules, and what did she do?	**Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white rider. Her arrest helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott.**
4	Which leader urged people to protest without violence, and what change did the boycott help bring about?	**Martin Luther King Jr. urged nonviolent protest. The boycott helped end segregation on Montgomery buses.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

James Madison helped protect freedoms by writing amendments to the Constitution. Martin Luther King Jr. helped end unfair bus rules by leading a boycott without violence. Madison changed written government rules, while King organized people to challenge rules in their daily lives.

Accept either speech or religion for question 1. For Part 3, accept any two people from different paragraphs if the response accurately describes each person's change and compares their methods.