A City Changes

Trace the causes and effects of the Montgomery bus boycott

4.P.2.2.C "Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments of the past or present; create timelines to identify multiple causes and effects from given information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the boycott and circle two effects. Number five events in the passage to show the order in which they happened.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

1. In 1955, buses in Montgomery, Alabama, had unfair rules that forced Black riders to give up seats to white riders. Black residents had complained about these rules for years. On December 1, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, and police arrested her. Her arrest did not create the unfair rules, but it gave many people a reason to act together.

2. Local Black leaders called for a one-day bus boycott on December 5. Many riders stayed off the buses, both to protest Parks's arrest and to challenge the unfair rules. People walked or shared rides instead. The large turnout led leaders to keep the boycott going. They organized carpools so workers could still reach their jobs while buses lost riders.

3. Meanwhile, Black residents challenged bus segregation in court. In November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling that Montgomery's bus segregation was against the Constitution. After a court order reached the city, the boycott ended on December 20. The next day, Black and white passengers rode Montgomery buses without the old seat rules. The boycott showed how planned action and a court decision could change a city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two reasons did riders have for staying off the buses on December 5?

2. What were two effects of riders staying off the buses?

3. Why did leaders organize carpools? What did the carpools help workers do?

4. How did both action by riders and action in court help change Montgomery's buses?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a numbered, five-step timeline of the boycott using dates or time clues from the passage. In your timeline, use "because" to explain at least two different causes and "so" to explain at least two different effects.

ANSWER KEY

A City Changes

GRADE 4 · 4.P.2.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the boycott and circle two effects. Number five events in the passage to show the order in which they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two reasons did riders have for staying off the buses on December 5?	**They protested Rosa Parks's arrest and challenged the unfair bus rules.**
2	What were two effects of riders staying off the buses?	**Many people walked or shared rides, and the large turnout led leaders to continue the boycott.**
3	Why did leaders organize carpools? What did the carpools help workers do?	**Leaders organized carpools to help workers reach their jobs while they continued to stay off the buses.**
4	How did both action by riders and action in court help change Montgomery's buses?	**Riders kept the boycott going. Black residents also challenged segregation in court, and a court order led to the end of the old seat rules.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. Before December 1, 1955, Black residents complained because bus rules forced them to give up seats.
2. On December 1, police arrested Rosa Parks because she refused to give up her seat.
3. On December 5, riders boycotted because of Parks's arrest and the unfair rules, so many walked or shared rides.
4. After December 5, leaders continued the boycott because many people took part, so they organized carpools for workers.
5. In November 1956, the Supreme Court upheld a ruling against bus segregation. After a court order reached Montgomery in December, the boycott ended, so passengers rode without the old seat rules.

Accept different sets of five events if they are in chronological order and the student explains at least two distinct causes and two distinct effects. For the marking job, valid effects include walking, sharing rides, continuing the boycott, organizing carpools, and buses losing riders.