

Before the Boycott

Use details before and after an event to identify its historical context.

5.23.F “identify the historical context of an event;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that describe life in Montgomery before Rosa Parks's arrest. Circle details that show how people responded afterward, so you can see the event in its historical context.

A Bus Ride Becomes History

- ① In Montgomery, Alabama, Black residents lived under segregation in 1955. City laws and customs kept Black and white people apart in many public places. On buses, Black riders had to sit in the back and could be told to give up seats to white riders. Many Black residents felt these rules were unfair and humiliating.
- ② On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black seamstress, refused a bus driver's order to give her seat to a white passenger. Police arrested Parks. Her arrest was not an isolated problem. It happened during a time when Black citizens had long faced unequal treatment and had begun organizing to challenge segregation in their city.
- ③ After Parks's arrest, local leaders and community members called for Black residents to stop riding city buses. The Montgomery Bus Boycott began on December 5, 1955. People walked, shared rides, and used carpools for more than a year. In 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Browder v. Gayle* ended bus segregation in Montgomery. The boycott showed how organized people could challenge unjust laws.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What conditions in Montgomery helped lead up to Rosa Parks's arrest?

2 Why does the passage say Rosa Parks's arrest was not an isolated problem?

3 How did the Montgomery Bus Boycott respond to the events and conditions before it?

4 What 1956 event changed the situation described in the passage? Explain what it changed.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a historical event you have studied that is not mentioned in this passage. Write three sentences that describe conditions before the event, name the event, and explain how those conditions helped lead to it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that describe life in Montgomery before Rosa Parks's arrest. Circle details that show how people responded afterward, so you can see the event in its historical context. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What conditions in Montgomery helped lead up to Rosa Parks's arrest?	Segregation required Black riders to sit in the back of buses and sometimes give up seats to white riders. Black residents faced unequal treatment.
2	Why does the passage say Rosa Parks's arrest was not an isolated problem?	Black citizens had faced unequal treatment for a long time and had already begun organizing to challenge segregation.
3	How did the Montgomery Bus Boycott respond to the events and conditions before it?	After Parks was arrested under unfair bus rules, Black residents stopped riding city buses to protest segregation.
4	What 1956 event changed the situation described in the passage? Explain what it changed.	The United States Supreme Court ruling in <i>Browder v. Gayle</i> ended bus segregation in Montgomery.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the Boston Tea Party in 1773, Parliament kept a tax on tea, even though colonists had no representatives in Parliament. In Boston, colonists protested by dumping tea from British ships into the harbor. The tax and lack of representation helped lead to this protest.

Accept any accurate event not named in the passage. The response should clearly connect conditions before the event to why the event happened.