

Boycott Ripple Effects

Trace how actions and decisions led to change.

S.CE.f "determining and explaining cause and effect relationships;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause and circle its effect. Number five cause-and-effect relationships to show how one event led to another.

A Bus Boycott Changes Montgomery

- ① In December 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, after she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Segregation laws and bus rules required Black riders to sit behind white riders and to move when seats were needed. Parks's arrest angered many Black residents, who had experienced unfair treatment on buses for years. Local civil rights leaders saw the arrest as a moment to challenge the city's bus system through organized action.
- ② On December 5, thousands of Black residents began a bus boycott. They walked, shared rides, or used Black-owned taxis instead of paying bus fares. Because so many regular passengers stayed off buses, the bus company lost money, and downtown businesses lost customers. The boycott also showed national reporters that Montgomery residents were organized and determined. Leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association, which coordinated carpools and meetings. Their planning helped the boycott continue for more than a year despite hardship and threats.
- ③ In November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court left in place a lower federal court ruling that Alabama's bus segregation laws were unconstitutional. Montgomery ended enforced bus segregation the next month. The legal ruling caused this change because city officials had to follow federal law. The boycott did not end all racial injustice, but it proved that sustained, organized action could influence local policy. It also brought Martin Luther King Jr. national attention, helping him become a leading voice in the civil rights movement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What long-term condition helped cause Black residents to feel anger after Rosa Parks's arrest?

2 How did the bus boycott affect the bus company and downtown businesses?

3 What effect did the Montgomery Improvement Association's carpools and meetings have on the boycott?

4 Why did Montgomery end enforced bus segregation in December 1956?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that a city rule treats one group unfairly. Write exactly three sentences: identify the unfair rule as a cause, describe an organized response as an effect, and explain one later change caused by the response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause and circle its effect. Number five cause-and-effect relationships to show how one event led to another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What long-term condition helped cause Black residents to feel anger after Rosa Parks's arrest?	Segregation laws and bus rules had forced Black riders to accept unfair treatment on buses for years.
2	How did the bus boycott affect the bus company and downtown businesses?	The bus company lost fare money because regular passengers stayed off buses, and downtown businesses lost customers.
3	What effect did the Montgomery Improvement Association's carpools and meetings have on the boycott?	Its planning helped the boycott continue for more than a year.
4	Why did Montgomery end enforced bus segregation in December 1956?	A federal court ruling, left in place by the U.S. Supreme Court, found the segregation laws unconstitutional, and city officials had to follow federal law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A city rule barred wheelchair users from entering the public library through its front door. Because the rule was unfair, residents organized a petition and spoke at council meetings. Their action led the council to require an accessible entrance, so more people could use the library.

Accept answers that accurately connect a cause to a stated effect in the passage. For the open response, accept any logical three-step cause-and-effect chain with an unfair rule, an organized response, and a later change.