

D E C E M B E R

DAILY COMPREHENSION

REM 1104

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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INTRODUCTION

Daily Comprehension is a nine-book series with each volume covering a single month from September through May. The format features an “on-this-day-in-history” approach. A short, factual story about a person, place, or event is presented for each day of the month and was chosen because of its particular significance on that certain date.

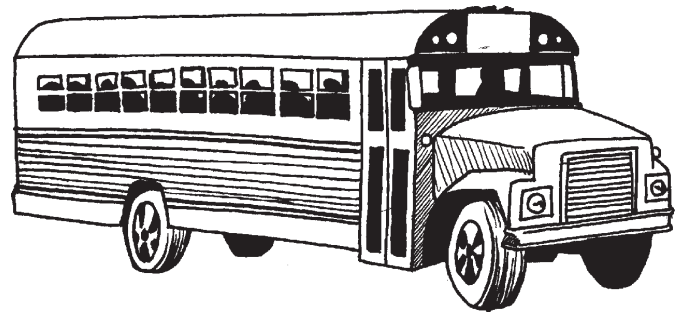
Each story is accompanied by an activity page which tests the student’s comprehension of the article’s content. Activities include questions, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story requires the use of a dictionary, almanac, encyclopedia, or atlas.

The books are designed for use in grades 5 – 12. Readability is on the 3rd – 4th grade level.

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MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks began the civil rights movement. She refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

In many parts of the South, blacks and whites had to sit in separate parts of the bus. The front was for white people and the back was for blacks. The law in Alabama stated that when the front was filled, a black person in one of the middle rows had to give up his or her seat if a white person wished to sit down.

Rosa Parks was tired as she returned home from work. When the driver ordered her to the rear of the bus so that a white person could sit down, she refused. Because of her refusal, she was arrested.

In protest, the black leaders of Montgomery called a meeting to decide what should be done. Mrs. Parks was not the first black person to be arrested for not

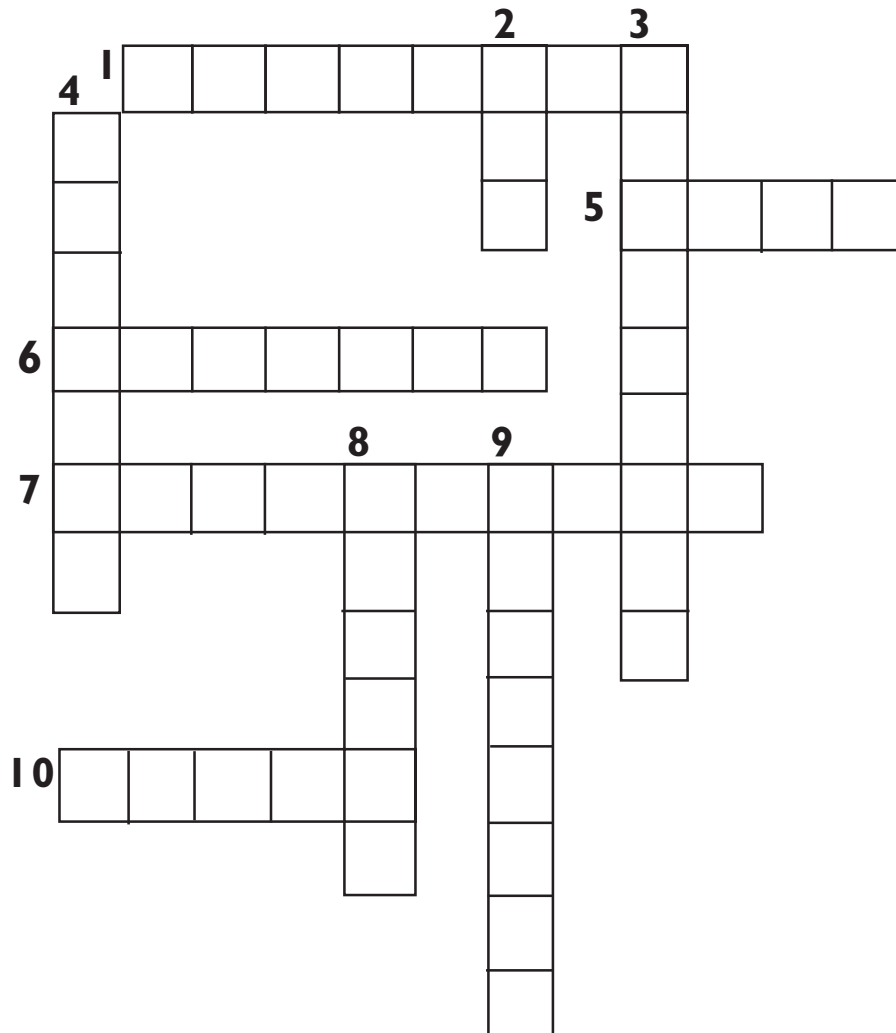
giving up her seat but they decided that she would be the last.

At the meeting, it was agreed that a one-day boycott of all city buses would begin on that Monday morning. By Monday evening, the buses had not carried a single black passenger. The leaders decided to continue the boycott.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Rosa Parks went to court where she was found guilty. The leaders took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, the bus boycott continued. Black people walked, rode bicycles, and joined car pools. A year later, the court ruled in favor of Rosa Parks. The highest court in the land said that the Alabama law on bus segregation was unconstitutional. Finally, in April, 1956, the bus company agreed to integrate seating on the buses and to hire black drivers.

Rosa Parks is sometimes called the mother of the modern civil rights movement.

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



Across:

1. Rosa Parks was arrested in the month of _____.
5. Parks was arrested for not giving up her _____ to a white person.
6. A one-day _____ of all city buses began on Monday.
7. Mrs. Parks was from the city of _____.
10. The black leaders appealed their case to the U.S. Supreme _____.

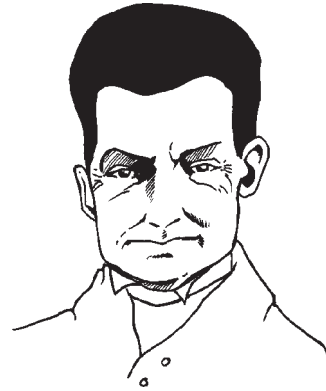
Down:

2. Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat on a _____.
3. _____ was called the mother of the modern civil rights movement.
4. Montgomery is in the state of _____.
8. Mrs. Rosa Parks went to court where she was found _____.
9. Rosa started the civil rights _____ by refusing to give up her seat on a bus.

Research: Find *boycott* in a dictionary. Write the definition.

JOHN BROWN

1800-1859



On December 2, 1859, John Brown, an abolitionist, was hanged. He was captured on October 18 as he tried to cause a slave uprising at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

His plan was to arm slaves with weapons captured at Harpers Ferry. The armed slaves would, in one huge uprising, kill their owners and win their freedom.

John Brown's plan failed because he did not inform nearby slaves of his plan. He therefore did not have the support of the people who were to carry out the revolt. The second mistake he made was not having an escape plan in case his scheme did not work.

At his trial, Brown was charged with the murder of five people, helping slaves rebel, and plotting against the state of Virginia. His lawyers tried to prove that he was insane. By doing so,

they could possibly have saved him from being hanged.

The lawyers' plan failed. Even though they showed that Brown was not very stable, they failed to get a statement from a reliable doctor that would say he was insane. Besides, Brown didn't want to be thought of as insane. He felt very strongly that slavery was wrong.

At his trial, John Brown acted both bravely and intelligently, but was found guilty of all charges. He was sentenced to hang on December 2, 1859.

Some people have said that John Brown was one of the causes of the Civil War.

He believed that all men were born equal, and that the color of one's skin should not have anything to do with the way that person is treated.

Name _____

JOHN BROWN

Write your answers on the lines.

1. John Brown was hanged on December _____, 1859.
2. Brown was captured on October _____, 1859.
3. John Brown was hanged in the month of _____ (abbreviation).
4. Brown was sentenced to _____ on December 2, 1859.
5. Brown captured Harpers _____.
6. The lawyers for Brown tried to prove he was _____.
7. Brown felt that _____ was wrong.
8. Harpers Ferry is in _____.
9. Brown's lawyers needed a _____ from a doctor.

Research: John Brown was an abolitionist. What does this mean? Use a dictionary to help find the answer.