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| It was not the NAACP’s first victory against segregation. This had been the Brown vs Board decision of 1954 where the judge had ruled that segregated education was unlawful. This had inspired Rosa Parks and many like her. | When the boycott was over there was a lot of violence aimed at Black citizens. Stones were thrown at the buses, and even snipers shot at the buses. Because of the violence, bus services were suspended for several weeks. The boycott had changed the law but not attitudes. |
| It was a local campaign and only affected the bus companies in Montgomery, Alabama. | Only a small measure of equality was achieved – desegregation on the buses. There was still desegregation in other aspects of American life. |
| Some historians argue that Rosa Parks had not intended to make a ‘stand’ against segregation; she was simply tired after a day at work. | The Montgomery Bus Boycott did not mark the beginning of the Civil Rights movement, for example the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) had been founded in 1909 and had worked to secure Civil Rights for Black Americans. |
| Some argued that this boycott and other non-violent direct action only succeeded in changing the law. It did not change the economic and social position of Black Americans who, all the way through the 20th Century, remained the poorest group in society. | Some White Americans refused to accept the desegregation of the buses and would refuse to sit next to or behind Black Americans. Some even went so far as to set up a private club for the transportation of White citizens. |
| Due to the violence, many Black Americans were afraid to use their right to sit where they liked. Therefore, they would often sit towards the back to avoid any tension. |  |
| It was one of the first major wins of the Civil Rights movement and it inspired mass protests elsewhere. | It was only local, but during the campaign Martin Luther King came to the forefront and emerged as a leader of the Civil Rights movement. |
| Martin Luther King went on from the boycott to become one of the most famous figures of the Civil Rights campaign. He influenced many people with his messages of peace and hope, the most famous of these being his ‘I have a dream’ speech. | The bus companies in Montgomery went nearly bankrupt during the boycott. This highlighted how vital Black Americans were in the American economy and showed the potential for non-violent direct action. |
| The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the start of ‘non-violent direct action’ – which was when Black people would do something to secure their Civil Rights. That is why some people say it was the start of the Civil Rights movement. | The success of the boycott was really important because it showed for both Black and White Americans that in racial discrimination cases – Black Americans would win. |
| Rosa Parks became the ‘mother of the Civil Rights movement’ and a role-model for African Americans. | The boycott showed the significance of the law and lawyers and throughout the movement, they played a big role in accomplishing the movement’s aims later. |
| During the boycott, the KKK attacked the homes of the Black leaders. This turned public opinion against the Whites and from then on, public opinion especially in the North openly supported Black Civil rights. |  |