

Civil Rights Activists
A home-based lesson plan

Historical Background

The Civil Rights Movement was successful because it mobilized a large group of the American people. **Democracy** exists for the people, but it takes many people acting together to create change. However, many of the change-making activists who do this work are not remembered by history.

Rosa Parks was a famously known Civil Rights activist who stood up for herself when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery bus. She was tired from working all day. When the bus driver moved the **colored** sign further back in the bus to force black people to stand so more white people could sit. Rosa Parks refused to stand and was sent to jail. This story made national news and African-American people all over the country boycotted bus services.

Though her act was heroic many people had done the same act of protest before Rosa Parks. For example, in the same city and bus station nine months earlier, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat to a white woman. She was inspired by learning about black activists in school during Black History Month. A year later, Colvin along with Susie McDonald, Mary Louise Smith, and Aurelia Browder challenged the segregation of buses in court for violating their **14th amendment** rights. In November of 1956, their court case, *Browder v. Gayle*, ended segregated busing in Montgomery and Alabama.

Why is only Rosa Parks remembered? The **NAACP** and other black organizations felt that Rosa Parks was a model citizen and someone the black community could look up too. She was an adult, well-respected, and worked as a secretary for the NAACP. It is important to understand that it takes many people for laws to change. Without the brave activists before her, the law would have never changed.



Wikipedia.org
Claudette Colvin



Wikipedia.org
Rosa Parks

Key Words

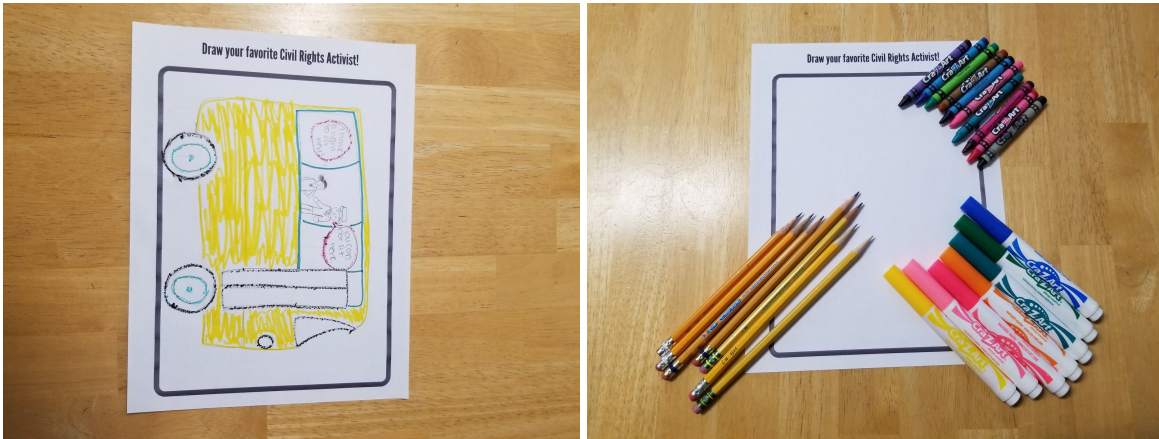
Democracy - a system of government that allows the people to have a say in how the government is run. They do this by voting, though there are usually rules about who can vote.

Colored - a term that was used to refer to non-white people, typically black people. The term is considered inappropriate and rude today.

14th Amendment - an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1868, that granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States—including former slaves—and guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws.”

NAACP - stands for The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This group is a civil rights organization in the United States, formed in 1909 as a bi-racial group working to advance justice for African Americans.

Activity: Civil Rights Drawing Activity



Supplies:

- Printable Drawing Template
- Markers, crayons, pencils, etc.

Instructions:

1. Print-out the drawing template.
2. Choose one Civil Rights activist you would like to draw.
3. Draw them on a bus refusing to give up their seat. Ask yourself what their facial expression and body language would look like. You may also draw bubbles to write words they might have said or thought. Once your drawing is complete show your family and ask them if they know who your activist is.