

- 1 **Montgomery Bus Boycott**
- 2 **Background Information**
 - Jim Crow laws force African Americans to buy tickets in front of bus from the bus driver
 - After African Americans buy tickets they then have to exit the bus and reenter thru the back
 - First four rows are reserved for whites
 - If all bus seats are full African Americans must give up their seats and stand
 - Claudette Colvin, 15 yrs old
- 3 **Incident that sets off boycott**
 - Rosa Parks boards a crowded bus
 - There is a vacant seat it's in the section b/w white and black sections
 - Three other black people are already sitting here
 - White man boards the bus, bus driver asks Rosa Parks and others to move, Parks resists
 - Parks arrested and spends 2 ½ hours in jail while NAACP bails her out
 - Total bail out was \$100
- 4 **What you may not know....**
 - Rosa Parks was a member of the NAACP
 - She had gone thru civil disobedience training
 - She was well respected in the community
 - This bus driver was picked out because NAACP knew he was a bigot and would call the cops
 - NAACP is already waiting at the police station before Rosa Parks arrives so they can bail her out because they know she will be arrested
- 5 **Montgomery Bus Boycott**
 - Civil Rights leaders Jo Ann Robinson and E.D. Nixon help to organize the bus boycott
 - Martin Luther King Jr. becomes the spokesperson for the bus boycott
 - Robinson gets volunteers to help hand out thousands of leaflets announcing the boycott
 - Fliers read "Don't ride the bus on Monday"

- 6  **Montgomery Bus Boycott cont**
- Monday comes and African Americans boycott the buses in mass
 - African Americans make up $\frac{3}{4}$ of all bus passengers in Montgomery
 - Even African Americans who did not want to “rock the boat” participated in the boycotts
 - In the first week the bus company nearly went bankrupt
- 7  **Montgomery Bus Boycott cont**
- Boycott lasts over a year
 - Churches buy station wagons, black taxi companies drive passengers, and 300 volunteers drove carpools for about 30,000 people a day
 - Bus company refuses to change policies
 - Finally in 1956 the Supreme Court orders an end to segregation on buses
- 8  **Reactions**
- Some white employees who had lost jobs were glad the boycott was over
 - Others chose violence
 - Black passengers were beat up
 - Buses were bombed
 - After a while reluctant whites finally gave up
 - Boycott thrust Martin Luther King Jr. into the spotlight
 - His teachings of non-violent protest gain momentum and a following, people believe change can happen without violence