



Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968)

« I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. »

“I Have a Dream” (1963)

- Martin Luther King Jr was born in the United States of America to African American parents.
- His first major role in the **Civil Rights Movement** came in 1955, after an African American lady , Rosa Parks , was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus. Martin helped to organise the Montgomery bus **boycott** . After 381 days of protest, a court finally ruled that such segregation laws should no longer be recognised.
- Martin was a great believer in peaceful protest. His protests used **no-violent tactics**.
- In 1963, Martin gave his famous **“I Have a Dream”** speech, at a famous rally named **'March on Washington.'** It has become one of the most famous speeches in history and focuses on Martin's dream of a society where black people and white people live together in harmony.
- In 1964 , 99 years after the abolition of slavery , the **Civil Rights Act** was passed, outlawing racial segregation and discrimination in the USA.
- In October 1964, Martin won the Nobel Peace Prize !
- Tragically, Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in **1968** in Tennessee, where he **had given** a speech the day before. He was standing on the balcony his hotel when he was shot.



Rosa Parks (1913-2005)

« People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically {...}. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in »

Rosa grew up in the Southern United States and lived with her husband in Montgomery, Alabama.

Montgomery was a segregated city - black people and white people **had to** live separately.

Rosa travelled to work on the buses. Black people **had to** sit at the back of the bus in seats marked 'For Colored'. On the 1 December 1955, a white man asked Rosa to **give up her seat** on the bus. Rosa refused and was arrested. She was fined \$10. In support of Rosa's cause all the black people of **Montgomery** stopped using the buses.

Rosa received many threats as a result of her campaign but she remained strong. She was awarded the **Congregational Gold Medal** and the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**.



Malcolm X (1925-1965)

« Our objective is complete freedom, justice and equality by any means necessary. »

He was a civil rights activist who encouraged African Americans to **fight**.

He also believed African Americans should create **their own state**, separate from white Americans. He was killed in 1965.