Rosa Parks

Name _____ Date _____

On December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks said, “No!” to a white man. The white man was a bus driver. He asked Rosa Parks to move to the back of the bus because another white man wanted to sit down. Rosa Parks was an African American woman. She had worked all day and she was tired, so when the bus driver told her to move, she decided to say no.

The police came and took Rosa Parks to jail. African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama became angry about this, so they started a bus boycott. The bus company lost a lot of money because African Americans in Montgomery wouldn’t ride the buses. The bus boycott lasted 381 days. It was in newspapers all over America. Rosa Parks became a national hero.

Rosa Parks had been working for a long time to help African Americans before the police put her in jail. She was a secretary for a black organization in America called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She worked with African American children in poor neighborhoods, too. She had been shouted at by white bus drivers before, but on December 1, when Rosa Parks said, “No!” to the white bus driver, the Civil Rights Movement in America began.

Rosa Parks resided in Detroit, Michigan until she died at the age of 92 on October 24, 2005.

1. What is a “boycott”?
a. use something a lot
b. stop using something
c. build buses
d. repair something

2. What does a secretary do?
a. work in an office answering phones
b. arresting people
c. drive a bus
d. ride buses

3. What does “shout” mean?
a. to whisper
b. speak in a normal tone
c. be shy
d. speak in a loud voice

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