



*Who is*  
**ROSA PARKS**  
**AND WHY DO PEOPLE HONOR HER?**

**ROSA LOUISE MCCAULEY PARKS** (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) is known as the Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement in America and honored for her quiet strength in facing adversity. On December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, to a white passenger. Her arrest for this act of defiance is credited with starting the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Segregation was outlawed when the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964. Rosa and husband Raymond Parks shared a special interest in youth resistance activities. In 1957 the Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan and in 1987, Mrs. Parks and Elaine Eason Steele founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. Parks received numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996; and the Rosa Parks Peace Prize, an international award named in her honor, in 1994.

## **QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH:**

- What was the simple action that Rosa Parks took and why was it important?
- What do you think needs to change in your family or your community to make life better?
- What small thing can you do to help make that change?





*Who is*  
**NELSON MANDELA**  
**AND WHY DO PEOPLE HONOR HIM?**

NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA (July 18, 1918 –) is known as one of the world's most significant fighters for democracy and human rights. He spent 27 years in prison, 18 of those on Robben Island (off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa), for fighting to end apartheid, a political system in South Africa in which people were divided into racial groups and kept apart by law. Mandela was released in 1990 and became the leader of the political party African National Congress (ANC) during the period of negotiation that led to the adoption of a new Constitution in South Africa. In 1994, he became the first democratically elected President of South Africa. He retired in 2004, but continues to be an advocate for causes such as education for all, children's rights, and the fight against poverty and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Mandela has received more than 100 awards over four decades, most notably the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. In 2008, he was awarded the LL.D. honoris causa, an honorary doctorate, from Michigan State University.

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH:

- Why was Nelson Mandela put in prison?
- Why did people around the world support Mandela's cause?
- Have you witnessed or experienced restrictions to your freedom, racism, or intolerance?
- What have you done to stop it?

