

Lire et comprendre un article sur l'histoire des pays étudiés en cours d'anglais, analyser et classer les informations extraites de l'article puis faire des hypothèses et des déductions.

Nom prénom de la rédactrice de l'article : **Nathalie OLCHOWY**

Discipline/dispositif : Anglais

Classe/niveau : 3ème

**Domaine du socle :**

Comprendre et s'exprimer dans une langue étrangère

**Compétence travaillée :**

Compréhension - expression écrite

**BRNE utilisée :** Speakeasy News – Ressources Numériques cycle 4

Lien internet : <http://www.speakeasy-news.com/civil-rights-the-montgomery-bus-boycott/>

Nom détaillé de la ressource/activité/outil BRNE utilisé : Speakeasy News / Cycle 4

**Accès :** Ready to use > Civil Rights : The Montgomery bus boycott.

Possibilité de retrouver la ressource en question grâce au moteur de recherche inclus dans Speakeasy News en tapant « Montgomery bus boycott » :



**Modalité :** (déroulement de l'activité proposée aux élèves)

En classe entière, par îlot ou par paire.

Possibilité de projeter l'article pour toute la classe.

Laisser les élèves réagir à cette première image (ci-contre) :

Échange et apport d'informations des uns et des autres, possibilité de rassembler ces informations en menant une écriture collaborative (Etherpad par exemple, sur la BRNE).

Lecture de l'article et repérage des informations demandées dans la fiche fournie par Speakeasy News.

**The Road to Civil Rights**



**SPEAKEASY NEWS**  
L'actualité au cœur des cours d'anglais



**On 1 December 1955, the actions of one woman started a movement that changed life for all African Americans.**

On that day, Rosa Parks refused to leave her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, so a white man could sit down.

At that time, most black Americans didn't have equal rights with Whites. In the Southern states, like Alabama, it was extremely difficult for black people to vote. And there was a system of segregation or racial separation: black people couldn't go to the same schools, restaurants or cinemas as white people. In Alabama, black people could only sit in certain seats in buses, and had to leave their seat if a white person wanted to sit.

**Rosa Parks**

Rosa Parks was a political activist who wanted black and white people to have the same rights. When she refused to give up her seat to a white man, the police arrested her. This was not the first case of a black woman refusing to give up her seat. This time, the African Americans in Montgomery, the state capital of Alabama, decided

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**Boycott**

The MIA hoped 50 per cent (50%) of African Americans would refuse to take the bus. In fact, 99% participated in the boycott. On the evening of 5 December, thousands of people went to Dr King's Church for an MIA meeting. They voted to continue the boycott until Alabama ended segregation on buses.

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**The boycott lasted 381 days.**

African-Americans walked or cycled to work or school, or organised informal taxi systems. They suffered intimidation. MIA leaders were arrested and black churches, and leaders' homes, were bombed. But they didn't give in. They continued their peaceful protest. The MIA decided to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the bus segregation illegal in the name of four black women who had suffered discrimination before Rosa Parks. That included two teenagers, Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith, aged 15 and 16.

On 20 December 1956, Alabama accepted a Supreme Court decision that buses mustn't be segregated. It was a victory for African Americans, not just in Alabama, but all over the country.



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President Barack Obama sitting in the Rosa Parks bus.

### Non-violent Protest

Martin Luther King and the organisations working for civil rights for African Americans were inspired by the non-violent protests organised by Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948) in India. Gandhi wanted India to be independent, not governed by Britain as part of its Empire. Gandhi insisted protesters must never be violent. If they were faced with violence, they must continue to oppose injustice, but never with violence. Typical types of non-violent protest are demonstrations, occupations, boycotts (refusing to use a service or product) and civil disobedience (refusing to pay an unjust tax, for example). Gandhi's protests, like King's, were successful. India became independent in 1947. But, like King, Gandhi was assassinated by an opponent.



### Bus Boycott Heroes

The bus boycott made Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King famous.

For Rosa Parks, it had negative consequences in the short term. She and her husband lost their jobs and no one wanted to employ them. But she later went to work for a Congressman and started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Foundation to help young people. In 1996, she received the Medal of Freedom, the most prestigious honour an American citizen can receive. She died in 2005 at the age of 92.



For Dr King, it was the first victory in his campaign for equal rights for all American citizens. The campaign was ultimately a success, culminating with the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and Civil Rights Act in 1968, which guaranteed equal rights. Dr King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. But he was assassinated in 1968. He is commemorated every year on Martin Luther King Day, the third Monday in January, a federal holiday.

**Help**  
**active** (v) someone who takes action to obtain social change  
**award** (v) give a prize or honour  
**Congressman** (n) person elected to serve in the U.S. parliament, Congress (in the House of Representatives or the Senate)  
**court** (n) place where a judge pronounces legal decisions  
**custodian** (v) arrive at the zenith, the most important point  
**factored holiday** (n) a day when people don't work, decided by the U.S. government  
**for all the states**. There are also state holidays.  
**give up** (v) abandon, leave  
**successful protest** (v) non-violent protest. Opposing a law or an injustice with no violence. See box.  
**(the) same (as)** identical.

Mise en commun des réponses en vue d'une trace écrite collective par rapport à l'article, puis échanges de points de vue à l'oral, des jeux de rôles sont également proposés (rejouer la scène de Rosa Parks dans lorsqu'elle a refusé de laisser sa place dans le bus).

### Plus-value de la BRNE :

La BRNE, via Speakeasy News, fournit ici des ressources intéressantes pour aborder un sujet de l'histoire américaine qui correspond au programme de 3ème, qui pourrait tout à fait faire l'objet d'une étude lors d'un EPI ou du parcours EMC, comme suggéré sur le site.

Les articles de journaux sont proposés sous différentes formes : adaptés à une impression pour les élèves, ou pour favoriser une projection en classe.

Une fiche de travail (worksheet) est également fournie pour les élèves, ainsi qu'une fiche d'aide à l'exploitation pédagogique du document pour le professeur. L'étude de ces documents prévoit un travail sur la compréhension, le lexique de la ségrégation et de la protestation, mais aussi sur les structures grammaticales telles que le passif, les modaux, les verbes à prépositions ou particules.

Voici quelques extraits de ces activités qui sont plus longues en réalité (3 pages) :

Il est possible de télécharger tous ces éléments en un clic, ou de les télécharger un par un :

## The Road to Civil Rights Activities 18

### A. Read the article and find the missing information in each sentence.

- Rosa Parks started a \_\_\_\_\_ that changed life for all African Americans.
- Indeed, she \_\_\_\_\_ to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.
- It was an obligation for black people to \_\_\_\_\_ the seats on buses for \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- Most \_\_\_\_\_ Americans didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ rights with Whites.
- It was particularly difficult in the \_\_\_\_\_ states, like Alabama.

### C. Living segregation

1. Fill in the chart below according to what was forbidden, what was possible and what was an obligation for African Americans to do.

FORBIDDEN	ALLOWED	REQUIRED

- to leave their seat for a white person
- to get on a bus and sit in certain seats
- to vote
- to go to the same schools as white pupils
- to go to the same restaurants as white customers
- to go to the same cinemas as white people

### Download resources :

- Montgomery Bus Boycott B1 Video-projectable article
- Montgomery Bus Boycott B1 Printable article
- Montgomery Bus Boycott B1 Pupil Worksheet
- Montgomery Bus Boycott B1 Teacher's Notes
- ZIP Montgomery Bus Boycott B1 Download all these files in one Zip