

People who made a difference: ROSA PARKS and MARTIN LUTHER KING

Did you know that African Americans in the 1950s couldn't go to the same schools as white Americans? On buses and trains, they had to sit in a different section from white passengers. African Americans had to go to different hospitals and shops and they couldn't eat in the same restaurants with white Americans. The **law** at the time said African Americans were 'separate but **equal**' – so they had to live separate lives from white Americans.

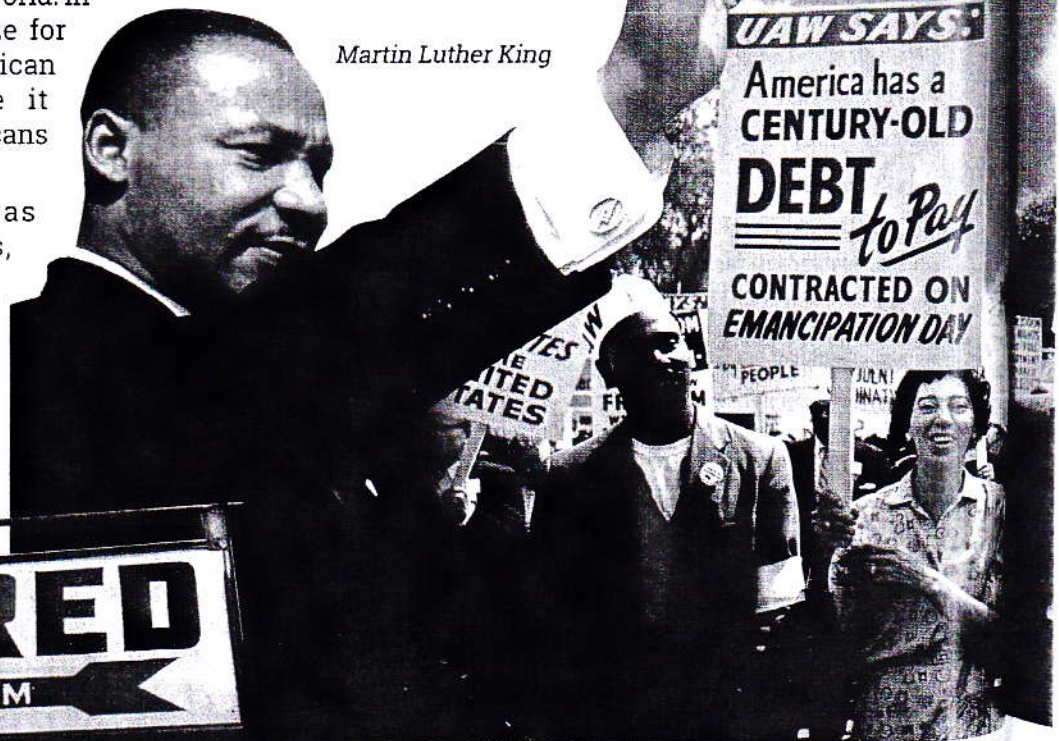
In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks (1913-2005), an African American woman, was on a bus on her way home from work. When she **refused** to give her seat to a white man, the bus driver called the police. The police arrested her and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began. 40,000 African Americans boycotted public buses for over a year. The protest only ended when racial segregation on buses stopped in 1956. This was the beginning of the Civil **Rights** Movement in the US.

One of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott was the African American church minister, Martin Luther King. He became the leader of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement wanted African Americans to have the same right to freedom and equality as white Americans. Martin Luther King believed in non-violent protest and he organised many campaigns against racial discrimination. The police frequently arrested him and sent him to prison, but he continued to protest.

In 1963, there was an important civil rights protest in Washington. Martin Luther King spoke to the people about his dream for the future: **freedom** and equality for all Americans. He began with the words: 'I have a dream'. His **speech** is famous all over the world. In 1964, he won the Nobel Prize for Peace and in 1965, the American government finally made it possible for all African Americans to vote.

Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in April 1968, but in July 1968, the American Government passed the Civil Rights Act and finally African Americans had the same rights as white Americans.

Martin Luther King





Rosa Parks

Glossary

- law legge
- equal uguale
- refused rifiutò
- Rights diritti
- freedom libertà
- speech discorso

Writing strategies

Rileggi il testo e sottolinea le frasi più importanti.
Cerca di riformulare i concetti con parole tue.
Unisci le frasi usando i connettori *first / then / after that / finally* e le congiunzioni *and / but / so*.