# Lesson Plan: What if You Were Rosa Parks (Grades 3 – 5)

**Overview:**

This is a Social Studies lesson plan used to teach about the Modern Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. This lesson plan focuses on Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. Technology is integrated in the lesson plan by using Google Draw to create a digital trading card. The following lesson has been adapted from, and uses portions of, Alabama Learning Exchange lesson plan “[What if You Were Rosa Parks?](https://alex.state.al.us/lesson_view.php?id=33432)”.

**Subject Areas**: Social Studies, ELA

**Materials:**

* Paper or Social Studies Journal for each student (to record vocabulary)
* Pencil for each student
* White Board
* Dry erase marker
* Computer with Internet access
* Projector, computer screen or interactive whiteboard to view the video
* Video for introduction to the Montgomery Bus Boycotts <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8A9gvb5Fh0>
* Gale Database: Kids InfoBits
* Gale Database: National Geographic for Kids
* Google Draw
* Google Draw template [Historical Person Trading Card](https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1Pf-reIcWMpwtYFLMqOWtLbFAOdHQ71PNSL1TkhZ0V7k/edit?usp=sharing) (Will need to make a copy in order to modify the template as this is a read-only file.)

**Lesson:**

1. The teacher will play the YouTube video clip about the [Montgomery Bus Boycotts](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8A9gvb5Fh0).
2. The teacher will ask the class the following questions and take verbal responses:
   * How would you feel if someone treated you unfairly because they thought they were better than you?
   * Would you have given up your seat?
3. The teacher will write the following vocabulary words on the board, in this order:
   * Civil Rights
   * Boycott
   * Protest
   * Civil Disobedience
4. The teacher will ask the class what they think each word means and scaffold the students to the following definitions of the words.
   * Civil Rights: Rights of every American citizen regardless of skin color, nationality, age, gender, disability or religion.
   * Protest: a statement or action showing disapproval of something.
   * Boycott: a peaceful form of protest that involves not buying, using or dealing with a person or company because of a disagreement of opinion.
   * Civil Disobedience: a peaceful form of protest that involves choosing not to obey laws.
5. The students will record the vocabulary words and definitions on their papers, or in social studies journals for further study.
6. The teacher will tell the class to pretend they are Rosa Parks and write a letter to a friend, describing their experience with the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. Students will be expected to use two vocabulary words in their letters.
7. The students will write their letters.
8. The teacher will instruct the students to make a digital trading card for Rosa Parks.
   * Students will be allowed to use Gale databases Kids InfoBits and National Geographic for Kids to find pictures and biographical information for their trading card.
     1. Examples from National Geographic for Kids
        1. Rosa Parks
     2. Examples from Kids InfoBits
        1. Rosa Parks general search
        2. Rosa Parks Fast Facts Article
        3. Picture of Rosa Parks
        4. B&W picture of Civil Rights Marchers

**Assessment Strategies**

The teacher will assess both the letters and the Google Draw digital trading card for creativity, correct use of vocabulary and grammar.

**Acceleration:**

The lesson plan could be modified for advanced students in the following ways:

* Students should be expected to use all 5 vocabulary words in their letter.
* Students can conduct further online research about a different event from The Modern Civil Rights Movement and create other digital trading cards. Students should use Gale databases Kids InfoBits and National Geographic for Kids as the sources of information.
  + - National Geographic for Kids Examples
      * Spies of Mississippi
      * Every Human Has Rights
    - Kids InfoBits
      * Martin Luther King, Jr. photo
      * MLK march Alabama 1965 photo