

Name: _____

Date: _____

Shades of History: The Montgomery Bus Boycott/Beyond Black and White

U.S. Historian

A historian tries to figure out the story of what happened in the past. Historians are interested in the relationships and connections among people, places, and events over time. Historians try to use primary sources as well as secondary sources to figure out the significance of what took place from the perspective of those closest to the action.

Many historians consider the Montgomery Bus Boycott to be the birth of a period of American history known as the Civil Rights Era. Your job is to place the boycott in the context of history, figure out how it was connected to what happened before and afterwards, and take your expertise back to your group. As you read, view, and listen, look for what surprises you, what you think is most interesting and important, and what you want to know more about, and try to make note of information obtained from primary sources.

Please use the resources on the Web page below to answer these questions:

<http://www.phenomenotions.org/curriculum/shades/historian.htm>

1. What was happening in the United States in the early 1950's that might have contributed to the Montgomery Bus Boycott? What conditions and events before 1950 might have paved the way for the boycott?
2. How did the boycott affect the lives of the people involved? How did it affect the lives of other Americans? How did it influence events that followed it?
3. What was important about the boycott? What part did it play in the civil rights movement? In American history?