

#9622

CESAR E. CHAVEZ

FILM IDEAS, INC., 2002

Grade Levels: 9-13+

22 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Highlights the early life and activist years of Cesar Chavez, migrant worker who founded the National Farm Workers Association (now known as the United Farm Workers), who successfully improved working conditions for thousands of farmworkers.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: United States History – Era 9 – Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

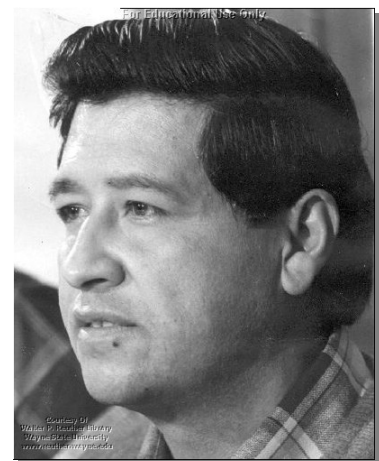
- ★ Standard: Understands the struggle for racial and gender equality and for the extension of civil liberties
 - Benchmark: Understands how diverse groups united during the civil rights movement (e.g., the escalation from civil disobedience to more radical protest, issues that led to the development of the Asian Civil Rights Movement and the Native American Civil Rights Movement, the issues and goals of the farm labor movement and La Raza Unida) (See Instructional Goals #1 and 2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict how Cesar Chavez worked to achieve the liberties and equality promised in the principles of American democracy and to improve the lives of people.
2. To examine the ways Cesar Chavez advanced the cause of human rights, equality, and the common good.
3. To illustrate the various influences on Cesar Chavez's life.

VOCABULARY

1. barrio
2. fast (to not eat)
3. self-educated
4. pesticide
5. legacy
6. activist
7. undocumented workers
8. posthumously
9. boycott



BEFORE SHOWING

1. Briefly describe each of the following historical events and persons:
 - a. The Great Depression
 - b. Rosa Parks
 - c. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - d. Robert Kennedy
 - e. Bill Clinton
2. Locate the following places on a map of the United States: Yuma, Arizona and San Jose, California.



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss Cesar Chavez's family life.
 - a. How did the Great Depression affect the Chavez family?
 - b. What events prompted the Chavez family to move to California?
 - c. Why did Cesar not do well in school?
 - d. What led Chavez to work in the produce fields?
2. Discuss Cesar Chavez's accomplishments as an activist.
 - a. What was Chavez's first act of civil protest? How does this compare with Rosa Parks act of civil protest?
 - b. How did Don McDonnell and Fred Ross influence Chavez?
 - c. What was the Braceros Program? Why did Chavez confront it?
 - d. What led Chavez to found the National Farm Workers Association?
 - e. What were the effects of the boycott against growers of table grapes?
 - f. What was Chavez response to use of pesticides in the fields?
3. Discuss Cesar Chavez's legacy.
 - a. What recognition did Chavez receive acknowledging his work?
 - b. Why did "Life" magazine call Chavez "the Ghandi of the fields"?

Applications and Activities

1. Investigate other individuals that won similar awards as Chavez. Consider winners of the Aztec Eagle and the Medal of Freedom.
2. Visit a museum or educational center which illustrates the history of the farm labor movement and the significant role of Cesar Chavez.
3. Research individuals who had a great influence on Chavez's life. Consider Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, St. Francis of Assisi, and Jesse Jackson.
4. Investigate the origins and history of labor unions in the United States and throughout the world.
 - a. How have they succeeded and failed to represent union members?
 - b. What industries have labor unions been most involved in?
 - c. Who are past and present popular labor union presidents?
 - d. What issues do union representatives negotiate on behalf of their members?
 - e. What is the role and purpose of labor unions?
5. Complete the vocabulary crossword puzzle. (See Instructional Graphics.)

RELATED RESOURCES



- [Mahatma Gandhi: Pilgrim of Peace #8316](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **UNITED WORKERS: FARM HISTORY**

<http://www.ufw.org/history.htm>

This page of the United Farm Workers site includes Chavez's life story, a timeline, a QuickTime movie, bibliography, newspaper series, and numerous speeches. Additional information available regarding UFW history and other key players past and present.

United Farm Workers



Viva Cesar E. Chavez!

- **CESAR E. CHAVEZ INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

http://www.sfsu.edu/~cecipp/cesar_chavez/chavezhome.htm

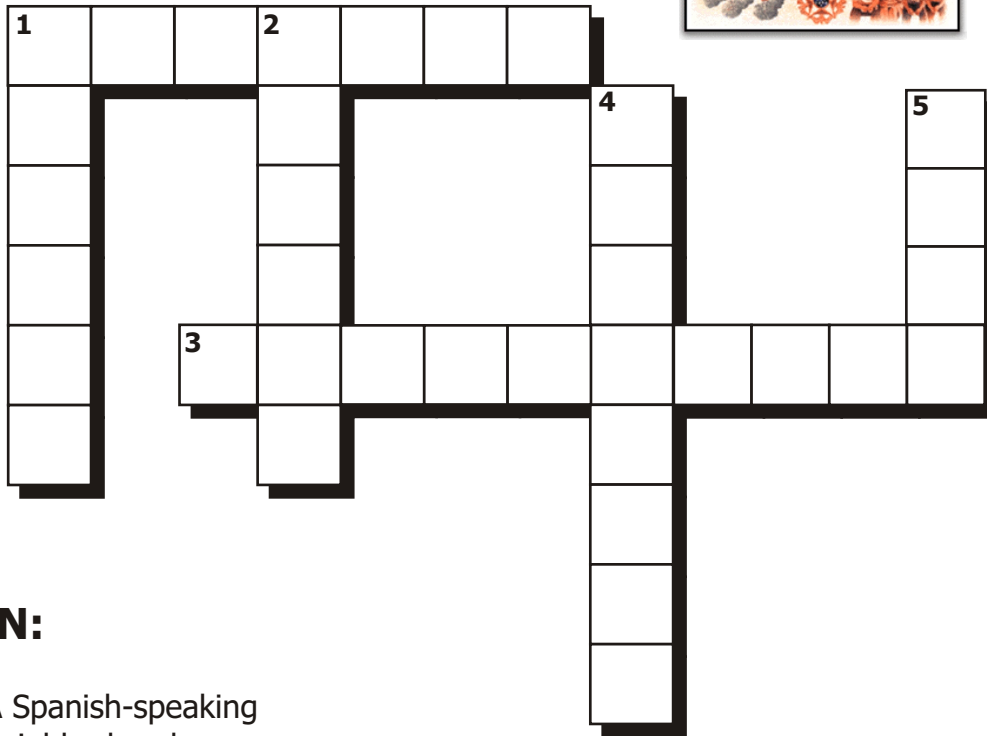
In addition to photos, speeches, and links this site chronicles Chavez's life through articles regarding his achievements, a biography, a chronology, the union, and the strike.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- **CESAR E. CHAVEZ CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Cesar E. Chavez Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Use words from this video to complete the crossword puzzle.



DOWN:

- 1) A Spanish-speaking neighborhood
- 2) Founder of the National Farm Workers Association
- 4) A Mexican laborer admitted to the U.S. especially for seasonal contracts
- 5) Recruited Chavez to work for the Community Service Organization

ACROSS:

- 1) Halt dealings with a particular person, business, or organization in an effort to change work conditions
- 3) Chemicals used by growers to prevent insects from contaminating crops

Answers:
Down: 1) BARRIO, 2) CHAVEZ, 4) BRACEROS, 5) ROSS
Across: 1) BOYCOTT, 3) PESTICIDES