



Cesar Chavez

Early Years

- Born in Yuma, Arizona in 1927.
- His parents were from Mexico.
 - Cesar's father was a farmer and owned a grocery store and garage.
- Cesar's father taught him how to work diligently.
- Cesar's mother taught him the importance of thinking about others.
 - Talking, not fighting is the way to solve problems.



Early Years Cont.

- 1930: The Chavez family lost their farm and grocery store.
- 1937: Chavez family moved to the Imperial Valley in southern California.
 - Imperial Valley is an important farming region.
- The Chavez family became migrant workers.
 - A person who goes from place to place searching for work.



Migrant Workers

- Migrant workers live in camps provided by farm owners.
 - Living conditions were bad.
 - No running water or electricity.
- Cesar's father was very mad at how the migrant workers were treated.
 - He told his family to stop working.
- Cesar realized that it was important to stand up for workers' rights.

Early Years Cont.

- Cesar went to more than 30 schools because his family moved around so much.
 - He would have to miss school so he could work.
- At school the teachers and other students would not treat him and other migrant worker students with respect.
- 8th grade was his last year in school.
 - He went to work full time to help earn money for his family.



Justice for All

- Chavez was very unhappy with working conditions.
- He wanted the following for the workers:
 - Payment for their work.
 - Workers should be allowed to speak their native language.
 - People should be treated equally.
- 17: He joined the Navy.
 - Mexican Americans were also treated unfairly in the Navy.

Justice for All

- After the Navy he moved to San Jose, California.
- Chavez went back to working on the farm.
 - They lived in a one room shack surrounded by map. They did not have running water or electricity.



CSO: Community Service Organization

- 1952: Chavez got a job with the CSO.
 - A group that worked for justice for all people.
- Chavez had to speak to groups of people about working together to change things.
- Chavez was a good leader and community organizer.
 - An organizer is someone who brings people together.

Rights for Farm Workers

- Chavez studied about Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi.
- Chavez became the leader of the CSO in 1959.
 - He helped thousands of people from Mexico become citizens.
 - He helped people sign up to vote.
 - He taught people about their rights.
- Chavez wanted to start a labor union.
 - A labor union is a organization of people who help to better work conditions and pay.
- 1962: Left the CSO to form the Farm Workers Association.

Rights for Farm Workers

- FWA was a labor union.
- The union spoke up for the workers.
- Chavez wanted to better working conditions.



Success

- 1965: A small union of grape pickers went on strike.
 - A strike is the refusal by workers to work to protest low pay or poor working conditions.
- Chavez supported the union.
- 1966: The two unions joined together.
- Chavez used non-violent protests to express workers' rights.

Success

- The UFW also used a march.
 - An organized walk taken by a group of people to make a point.
- Chavez and 70 others walked from Delano to Sacramento.
 - This was a 340 mile walk.
 - 20,000 people joined the march.
- Chavez led many more marches.
- During the 80's Chavez and many others went on a fast.
 - A fast is when you refuse to eat.
 - This lasted for 36 days.