

Google Arts & Culture

Learn Together: César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and the Farm Workers Movement



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Grape Pickers, Arthur Schatz 1968-03, LIFE Photo Collection

Using the lesson plan and Google Arts & Culture resources

This lesson plan is designed to support you as you explore Google Arts & Culture stories and exhibits related to the lesson topic. The images you will see here are just a sample of the media—texts, images, audio, and video—available to you on the Google Arts & Culture website. A parent or teacher might be guiding you through the lesson, or you might choose to complete it on your own.

All you need to access the lesson is an internet connection and a web browser. You may want to take notes, whether you do that digitally or with paper and pen.

The lesson plan has an **introduction**, which will describe the topic and provide some background information that will help you understand what you are seeing, hearing, and reading. Then the lesson will take you on a journey from one **Story** or **Exhibit** to another, fill in some details along the way, and pose **questions** that will help you focus on important ideas. Some lesson plans include a **project** related to the lesson topic. All end with a **quiz** and some **ideas for exploring the topic further**.

The lesson plan includes **questions** about the main stories and exhibits, and there is also a **quiz**. You will want to write answers to the questions in a notebook or on a piece of paper. Then you can check all your answers when you've finished the lesson.

Resources on the Google Arts & Culture website include Themes, Stories, Museum Views, items, and images.

- ❖ **Themes** bring together stories, exhibits, collections, images, audio, and video files that relate to a topic.
- ❖ In a **Story**, clicking on the arrow on the right side of a slide will move you forward. The arrow on the left side takes you back. Sometimes, clicking on the right arrow will zoom you in on an image. Just keep clicking to keep moving forward. Audio and videos on slides will play automatically. Clicking on an image title will take you to a page with more information about it.
- ❖ In **Museum Views**, you move through a 3D space. Click to move forward. Click, hold, and move the cursor left or right to turn.
- ❖ An **item** will take you to an individual **image**, where you can zoom in and sometimes read more about the artefact.



Huerta Speaking to a Group of Women at an Unknown Location, 1972
Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery

In this lesson, you will learn about:

- ❖ the living and working conditions of farm workers in the United States during the twentieth century.
- ❖ the Farm Workers Movement, including the first unions for farm workers in the United States and their progressive methods and achievements.
- ❖ César Chávez, a Latino labor leader, civil rights activist, environmentalist, and co-founder of the Farm Workers Movement.
- ❖ Dolores Huerta, a Latina labor leader, civil rights activist, feminist icon, and co-founder of the Farm Workers Movement.

You will:

- ❖ view some stories about the Farm Workers Movement in the United States during the mid-twentieth century, including information about its leaders, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta.
- ❖ answer some questions about what you have seen and read.

This lesson will take **30–45 minutes** to complete.



Learn Together: César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and the Farm Workers Movement

Throughout the twentieth century, farm workers faced some of the worst working conditions in the United States. They received low wages for long days of backbreaking work. In addition, farm workers lived precariously, moving from place to place as they followed seasonal harvests.

Dolores Huerta (born 1930) and César Chávez (1927–1993) brought the working conditions of farm workers to the public's attention. They galvanized national solidarity on the workers' behalf and co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1962.

The NFWA championed workers' rights and advocated for fair wages. A black silhouette of an eagle decorated the organization's red and white flag. The eagle, an important animal in Aztec mythology, was chosen to evoke the Mexican roots of the union's larger constituency. Also featured on the flag was the word *huelga*, Spanish and Filipino for "strike."

The National Farm Workers Association eventually became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). The UFW was the first nationally recognized union for farm workers. Under the leadership of Huerta and Chavez, it led a successful strike and a worldwide boycott of California grapes. The UFW also advocated for those who picked lettuce, dates, lemons, and strawberries.

As you view the exhibits and stories in this lesson, think about these questions:

- ❖ Why did farm workers unionize in the United States during the twentieth century?
- ❖ Why is César Chávez recognized as one of the most important Latino leaders in the history of the United States?
- ❖ How has the Latina leader Dolores Huerta improved the lives of farm workers and advanced new models of feminism?



César E. Chávez: Labor Leader, Community Organizer, and Latino American Civil Rights Activist

César Chávez is one of the most important Latino leaders in United States history. Born in Yuma, Arizona, to a Mexican American family, Chavez began his working life as a manual laborer. He emerged as a civil rights activist and a labor leader during the farm worker movement of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. As president of the United Farm Workers union, Chávez helped achieve a series of unprecedented victories for farm workers, including higher wages, grievance procedures, cleaner facilities, and health care plans. He also assumed major roles in the broader labor movement, the Chicano movement, and the environmental movement.

Click [here](#) to learn about César E. Chávez.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. What movement was César Chávez most famous for leading?
2. Why did the National Park Service make La Paz into a National Monument?
3. César Chávez said the landscape of La Paz offered him a personal refuge or a place “to reflect on what was happening, to shed all of those million little problems, and to look at things a little more dispassionately.” Why do you think he might have felt that way?

To learn more about César Chávez and working conditions for US farm workers in the twentieth century, click [here](#).



Labor organizer Cesar Chavez (C, blue shirt) speaking w. striking grape pickers in Delano, Arthur Schatz 1970
LIFE Photo Collection

The 1965–1970 Delano Grape Strike and Boycott

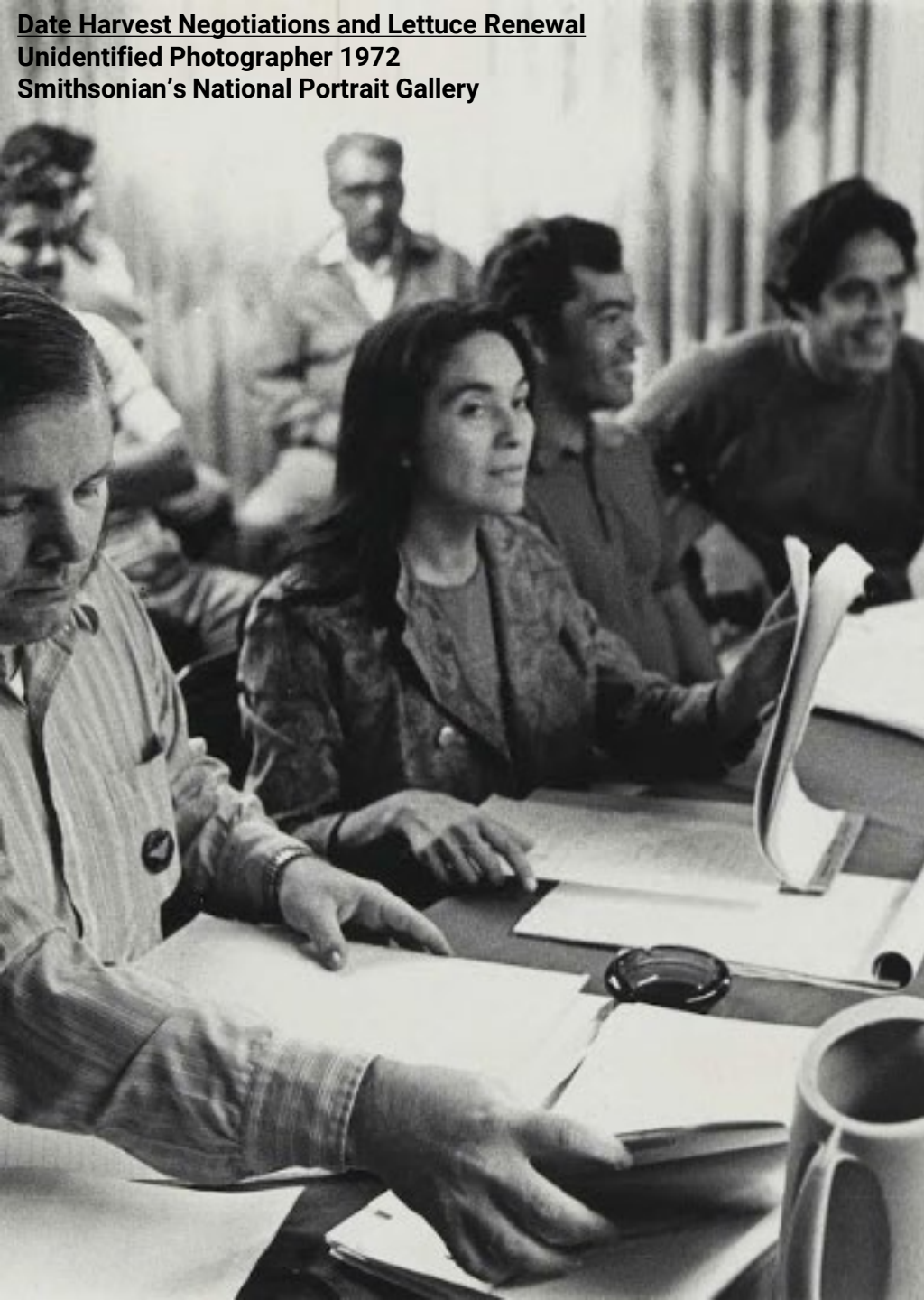
In 1965, Filipino American grape workers walked off the fields of growers in Delano, California, protesting years of poor pay and conditions. The Filipino American farm workers asked César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, who led the mostly Latino United Farm Workers union, to join their strike. Together, Latino and Filipino strikers shared the same picket lines, strike kitchens, and union hall. The UFW also organized a national boycott of grapes. Across the nation, people refused to buy grapes in solidarity with the workers. As a result, the Californian table grape industry agreed to better pay, benefits, and protections for farm workers.

Click [here](#) to learn about the 1965–1970 Delano Grape Strike and Boycott.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. Why did the Filipino American grape workers walk off the grape fields in 1965?
2. Why do you think the Filipino American workers asked the mostly Latino UFW to join their strike?
3. For their labor movement, the leaders of UFW adopted nonviolent tactics from the African American civil rights movement. Do some research on nonviolent protest tactics, such as marches, pickets, boycotts, and sit-ins. Then, write a short essay about how they can be effective tools for social change.

To learn how Latino activism inspired a presidential campaign for national change during this time, click [here](#).



Dolores Huerta: Latina Leader of the Farm Workers Movement

Dolores Huerta was born in New Mexico and grew up in California. She began her career teaching farm children. She quickly realized she would be more help to her students if she advocated for better working conditions for their parents. As a community organizer, Dolores Huerta met César Chávez and co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1962. She was the union's lobbyist and contract negotiator. She was instrumental in achieving major legal protections and a better standard of living for farm workers. An articulate and energetic speaker, Huerta led the union's public relations effort, conveying the movement's values and aims to the larger public.

Click [here](#) to learn about labor leader Dolores Huerta.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. How many contracts did Dolores Huerta negotiate for the UFW up to 1975?
2. Why was Dolores Huerta known as the "Dragon Lady"?
3. President Barack Obama used the motto "Yes, we can!" in his 2008 presidential campaign. In 1972, Dolores Huerta created the motto—*¡Sí se puede!* in Spanish—and it is now the official motto of the UFW. Why do you think this motto is meaningful to people?

To learn more about Dolores Huerta and working conditions for US farm workers in the 20th century, click [here](#).

DOLORES



Dolores Huerta, Barbara Carrasco 1999
Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery

Dolores Huerta: Civil Rights Activist and Feminist Icon

In addition to her farm worker advocacy, Dolores Huerta fights for women's rights. She has challenged the idea of women putting family responsibilities first and inspired women to become involved in the labor movement. Today, she continues to voice her concerns and demands that issues around sexism, childcare, and sexual harassment be taken seriously. This work has earned her the respect of Chicanas and feminist leaders such as Gloria Steinem. In 1993, Dolores Huerta became the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Click [here](#) to learn more about civil rights advocate and feminist icon Dolores Huerta.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. Which three issues does Dolores Huerta advocate strongly for?
2. Why do you think Chicana artist Barbara Carrasco's iconic portrait of Dolores Huerta serves as a symbol for female power for the Chicano and feminist movements?
3. In 2012, Dolores Huerta received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, from President Barack Obama. Research the many accomplishments of Dolores Huerta and then create a timeline that highlights her major achievements.

To learn about Barbara Carrasco and other Chicana mural artists click, click [here](#).

Quiz

Read the questions and write your answers in your notebook or on a piece of paper.

1. Who was César Chávez and what is he remembered for?
2. What were two achievements won by the United Farm Workers union on behalf of farm workers?
3. What is a boycott?
4. What was the outcome of the 1965–1970 Delano Grape Strike and Boycott?
5. Who was the first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame?
6. What labor organization did Dolores Huerta co-found in 1962?
7. How did Dolores Huerta’s public speaking help the UFW?
8. How did Dolores Huerta earn the respect of those involved in the Chicana movement?

Explore Further

This lesson has given you some information to talk about the Latino farm worker movement in the United States during the twentieth century. It has also introduced you to important Latino leaders of the movement. To learn more about Latino cultures in the US, click [here](#).

WANTED!

BY **CESAR CHAVEZ AND THE FARMWORKERS**
100 VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE TO HELP
SAVE THEIR UNION.

REWARDS:

ROOM AND BOARD **GAS AND UPKEEP**

IF YOU HAVE A CAR AND IT IS USED IN THE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

\$5.00 A WEEK

THE UNION IS CESAR CHAVEZ AND ALL THE FARMWORKERS OF THE STRIKE.

TRAINING

TO FIND BUDS AND WHO TRAINED CESAR CHAVEZ IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING.

SATISFACTION

OF CONTRIBUTING TO A DEPRESSED, NON-VIOLENT STRuggle FOR JUSTICE.

IF:

* YOU HATE ABOUT THE STRIKE OF THESE MEN PUT THE WORD "WANTED" IN LARGE LETTERS.

* YOU DON'T FEEL LITTLE ABOUT THE BUREAU OF LABOR RELATIONS IN THE STRIKE.

* AND YOU BELIEVE IN "MILITARY SOCIAL SERVICE THROUGH OUR 'FOODSTAMP ACTION'."

THEN:

* CESAR CHAVEZ AND THE FARMWORKERS STRIKE ARE TO WIN FULL-TIME WORK FROM THE STRIKE TO HELP FARMERS AND THE STRIKE OF THE STRIKE.

HOW TO APPLY

" THE STRIKE AND STRIKE STRIKE TO WIN IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN FULL-TIME WORK FROM THE STRIKE TO HELP FARMERS AND THE STRIKE OF THE STRIKE."

CESAR CHAVEZ

CALL, WRITE OR COME SEE THE STRIKE AND STRIKE STRIKE TO WIN IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN FULL-TIME WORK FROM THE STRIKE TO HELP FARMERS AND THE STRIKE OF THE STRIKE.

BOYCOTT GRAPES, LETTUCE & GALLO

It's Your Turn!

In this lesson, you learned about the Latino American Farm Workers Movement during the twentieth century. You saw and read about the activism of César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and members of their union. Now it's your turn to do something. Here are some ideas for projects that you can do at home or in the classroom.

- ❖ Create a protest poster advocating for the rights of farm workers. Choose your own motto and design. For inspiration and ideas, do some research on posters that were used during the Farm Workers Movement during the 20th century. You can draw or paint your poster or make a collage with pictures from the Internet. Use images that show some of the important issues of the movement.
- ❖ Research a group working toward fixing an issue in your local community. Then, interview a member of that group to learn how they organize and advocate for their issue. Prepare your interview questions ahead of time. Write up your interview for your school newspaper or blog.
- ❖ Create a comic strip that tells a story about the work of either César Chávez or Dolores Huerta. Brainstorm and plan for your comic before you begin by outlining plot, characters, conflict, and setting. Look at comics or graphic novels online or in the library for inspiration.

Answers

César E. Chávez: Labor Leader, Community Organizer, and Latino American Civil Rights Activist

1. César Chávez is most famous for leading the farm workers movement.
2. César Chávez lived and worked with members of the farm workers union on the site.
3. Sample response: The desert landscape was vast, which might have helped César Chávez feel like the problems of humans—no matter how challenging—were still small in the grander universe.

The 1965–1970 Delano Grape Strike and Boycott

1. Filipino American grape workers walked off the grape fields in 1965 to protest years of poor pay and poor working conditions.
2. Sample response: Filipino American workers asked the mostly Latino UFW to join their strike because the very powerful union could make their case stronger.
3. Essays will vary.

Dolores Huerta: Latina Leader of the Farm Workers Movement

1. Dolores Huerta negotiated more than 100 contracts for the UFW by 1975.
2. Huerta's negotiating skills and unyielding character at the bargaining table earned her the title "Dragon Lady."
3. Sample Answer: The word "we" reminds people that they can achieve things together.

Dolores Huerta: Civil Rights Activist and Feminist Icon

1. Dolores Huerta advocates strongly around issues of sexism, childcare, and sexual harassment.
2. Sample response: Dolores Huerta herself has historically fought for women's rights and is a Chicana.
3. Timelines will vary but should include major achievements, such as the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

Quiz

1. César Chávez was an American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who co-founded the United Farm Workers union.
2. The UFW union won higher wages, grievance procedures, cleaner facilities, and health care plans on behalf of farm workers.
3. A boycott is a form of protest. When people stage a boycott, they stop using the goods or services of a company (or country) until changes they desire are made.
4. The Californian table grape industry agreed to better pay, benefits, and protections for farm workers as a result of the 1965–1970 Delano Grape Strike and Boycott.
5. Dolores Huerta was the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.
6. Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers union in 1962.
7. As a public speaker for UFW, Dolores Huerta conveyed the movement's values and aims to the larger public.
8. Dolores Huerta's fight for women's rights earned her the respect of those involved in the Chicana movement.