



Essential Question

How can one person make a difference?

Use Graphic Organizer 6 to take notes while you read.

Cesar Chavez Fights Injustice

Biography

Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927. As a child, he saw how farm workers were **mistreated** when his family became migrant workers. To help his family, Cesar left school after the eighth grade. Then he picked crops on different California farms. It was a very hard life.

Cesar served in the United States Navy. After the navy, he got married and returned to San Jose, California. In 1952 Cesar worked for a Latino civil rights group. He **registered** new voters. During this time, he became interested in nonviolent protest. Later, Cesar used this peaceful way to **protest injustice** in his own struggles.

Cesar wanted to organize a union to protect the rights of farm workers. He started the National Farm Workers Association in 1962. Later, a woman named Dolores Huerta joined the group and helped to turn it into the United Farm Workers of America.

In 1966 many people **supported** Cesar's march to Sacramento, California. They wanted new state laws to allow farm workers to form a union. Sometimes the union asked people to **boycott** farm



Cesar Chavez leads a strike to protest poor working conditions for migrant farmers.

products. Or, to protest poor working conditions, farm workers refused to work.

For the rest of his life Cesar worked hard for the union. He wanted farm workers to **afford** a better way of life. Sometimes Cesar went without food for many days. He wanted people to pay attention to his cause. Now **generations** of farm workers will have better wages. They will enjoy better working conditions and medical care.

More than 50,000 people attended Cesar's funeral in 1993. The following year, President Bill Clinton **awarded** him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



COLLABORATE Share your notes from Graphic Organizer 6 with a partner. Use the sentences below to have a collaborative conversation about the text. Present your ideas to the class.

1. Explain why Cesar Chavez understood the hard life of migrant workers when he was a child.

When Cesar Chavez was a child, he and his family worked as migrant workers _____

2. Discuss how Cesar Chavez helped protect the rights of farm workers.

Cesar Chavez helped the farm workers to _____

3. Discuss clues that show how the author feels about Cesar Chavez.

The author writes that generations of farm workers will have _____

_____ This shows the author thinks _____



Work with a partner. Discuss the Essential Question: *How can one person make a difference?* Then write your answers below. Cite text evidence.

How did Cesar Chavez make a difference?

Cesar Chavez worked to protest injustice by _____

Discuss how farm workers' lives changed because of Cesar Chavez's efforts.
