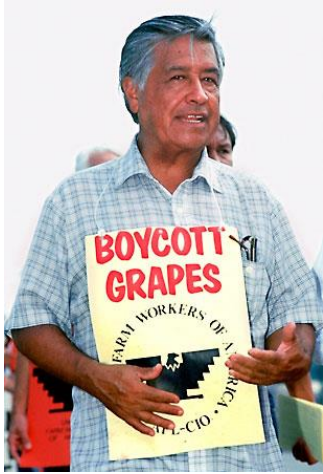


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Biographies: Cesar Chavez*



Cesar Estrada Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona, United States, on March 31, 1927. He was a descendant of Mexican immigrants who became a farmworker union leader in the United States and an activist in favor of civil rights for the farmworkers.

Cesar started working on a farm at an early age in Arizona and California. He missed classes frequently and quit school before graduating.

Cesar married Helen Fabela in 1948. Four years later, Chavez became an organizer for the CSO, Community Services Organization. CSO was a small group dedicated to helping the community and was financed by the philanthropist Saul Alinsky. In 1958, Cesar Chavez became the director of the organization.



Cesar Chavez founded a union that became known as the United Farm Workers, UFW, in 1962. This union united immigrant farmworkers, mostly of Hispanic origin, to fight for the improvement of their working conditions in 1964.

The next year Chavez and his union led a strike by grape pickers demanding better wages. The strike was supported by a grape boycott. Five years later, their efforts resulted in the first major victory for the farmworkers.

Chavez and the union demanded that all farmworkers must be in the United States legally and a member of the union. These demands prevented illegal immigrant workers from working in the fields; this protected the wages and rights of legal, union farmworkers.





Cesar led many protests against the employment of illegal Mexican immigrants in the fields and supported the government's Immigration and Naturalization Service for the deportation of farmworkers who refused to join the farmworker union.

Cesar Chavez and union farm workers tried to stop illegal Mexican immigrants because these immigrants were paid less to work than the farmworkers who worked legally. In 1973, to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing the border with Mexico, Cesar organized members of the UFW to establish was the "Wet Line," where union members blocked passage in uninhabited areas of the desert between Sonora, Mexico, and Arizona, U.S.

Although these actions favored unionized legal workers, they also led to discrimination and persecution of illegal Mexican workers.

Influenced by the philosophy of Gandhi, Chavez continued the fight against the larger companies by participating in three peaceful hunger strikes, achieving better wages, and working conditions for legal, unionized farmworkers.

Before his death, Cesar Chavez organized a boycott against the use of harmful pesticides.

Chavez died near Yuma, Arizona, on April 23, 1993. His supporters held a final march with his family, friends, workers, and others who wanted to honor him.

Chavez is remembered in California and Texas with a holiday in his honor. It is celebrated on March 31, his birthday. In Arizona and Colorado, it is an optional holiday. This holiday is the first in the history of the United States given to a Mexican American and a trade unionist.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In what year did Chavez create his union?

- a. In 1952
- b. In 1958
- c. In 1962
- d. In 1965

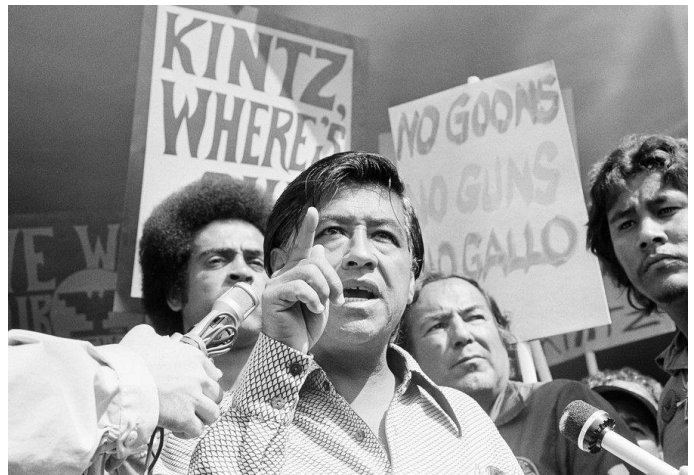


2. Who did Cesar Chavez fight against?

- a. The Immigration and Naturalization Service
- b. The illegal Mexican farm workers
- c. The UFW
- d. None of the above

3. Where did Cesar Chavez's family come from?

- a. Guatemala
- b. Honduras
- c. Mexico
- d. El Salvador



4. Chavez's actions led to discrimination and persecution of illegal Mexican workers.

- a. True
- b. False

5. When did Cesar Chavez die?

- a. April 26, 1993
- b. March 31, 1993
- c. April 29, 1993
- d. April 23, 1993

