The Life of César Chávez

Illustrated Booklet with Study Ideas

By

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Dear Teachers,

This packet was made to honor the work of the millions of men, women and children who work in the fields to place the food on our tables. César Chávez was one of these people.

In his book, César Chávez: Hope for the People, David Goodwin comments, "César knew firsthand the miserable conditions under which his people worked. Long hours, horrible wages, a lack of decent housing, dangerous pesticides, racial discrimination, verbal and physical abuse, and a lack of justice when they were cheated - all these weighed heavily on César Chávez' heart and made him angry."

This work in progress is meant to weigh heavily on your heart and make you angry.

These materials are for your classroom use only. You may contact me at Will Rogers Learning Community (310) 452-2364.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Durán-Contreras
Teacher

P.S. The illustrated booklet is dedicated to my father, Jesús G. Durán
César Chávez was born on a farm in Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 1927.

Cesar's family had come from Mexico where his grandfather had been treated like a slave.

César lived on a little farm with his parents and five brothers and sisters.

When César was ten, the family lost their farm. They migrated to California to find work.
Many other families came to California to work in the fields. Migrant farm workers lived in shacks with no water or toilets.

Migrant children went to school sometimes. They had to work with their parents. César went to 37 schools.

When he got older he left his family and went to work in the vineyards. It was miserable work.

César joined the Navy at 17. He married Helen Fabela in 1948. They had eight children.
César couldn’t forget the discrimination farm workers faced. He vowed to help them. He helped organize classes in English.

In 1962 he founded the National Farm Workers Association or the NFWA. He designed a flag for the union.

He wanted laws to protect workers: fair wages, clean working conditions, and fewer pesticides.

César believed in non-violence. He started strikes and boycotts. People helped his cause.
César worked for many years. People of all races joined his work. They helped workers.

César died on April 23, 1993 while reading a book. More than 30,000 people attended his funeral. It was his last march.

César Chávez:
HUELGA
NFWA
The Fruits of His Labor

This is what I promise to do to make this a better world for everyone.

by, Martha Durán-Contreras, daughter and granddaughter of farmworkers
**Miscellaneous Ideas for Study of César Chávez**

* Use large circle sponges to make a bunch of grapes!
* Paint kids faces on a large circle and then make a bunch of grapes with it.
* Color a small farmworkers flag.
* Sing *De Colores* - the Farmworkers Anthem
* Draw large posters of fruits and vegetables.
* Cut out pictures of food from magazines so that children can see the importance of farm workers.
* Make posters showing pictures of farmworkers.
* Make an Alphabet Book with Words Related to César Chávez
* Do a service learning project:
  1. plant a few new plants,
  2. weed a garden,
  3. make cards to send a children's hospital
  4. make cards to send to Senior Citizens
* Read *Don Radio, Gathering the Sun, Amelia's Road*
The Life of César Chávez
1927-1993

Name:____________________
In many ways the lives of Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr. were similar. Their lives were also different. Fill in the venn diagram.

What did you learn from this activity?

Name: ____________________________
Estos tres héroes basaron su vida en hacer cambios sin violencia. Ellos tuvieron vidas semejantes, pero también fueron diferentes. Completa el diagrama “venn.”

Nombre: ___________________________