

LATINO AMERICANS

Discussion Questions: The Farmworker Movement (For use with Episode 5)

Lesson Overview

Students view a clip on the emergence of the Farmworker Movement and respond through discussion questions. Students can respond individually or in small groups, in writing or through discussion. Two extensions offer additional activities and investigation.

Grade: 7 – 12+ (content can be adapted for grades 4 – 6)

Time: 30 – 45 minutes

Materials

- Video Clip (*Farmworkers Strike*)
- Pencil/pen and paper for individual responses or chart paper for group work

Lesson Objectives

- Analyze the conditions that led to the emergence of the Farmworker Movement.
- Identify key individuals, organizations and stakeholders.
- Identify the strategies and symbols that gave shape to the movement.
- Compare and contrast various leadership styles.
- Consider the racial implications of Cesar Chavez's leadership.

Lesson Procedure

Optional Pre-Activity:

- Show students pictures of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and/or the UFW Eagle and ask if these images have any meaning to them.
- Ask students what they ate that morning or the night before. Ask them if they know where the ingredients came from or who might have harvested them.

View clip from Episode 5, *Farmworker Movement*. Encourage students to make note of the conditions of farmworkers and map out key individuals, locations and events.

In small groups or individually, students respond to the following questions:

- Even as agricultural business increased in profits in the mid-twentieth century, there was a very different picture for its laborers. Describe the conditions.
- Who were some of the key players in the effort to organize farmworkers? What were their backgrounds?
- Why did the Bracero Program make it difficult to organize farmworkers into a union?
- What was the strategy that Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta chose to overcome the history of violence associated with past efforts to organize farmworkers?
- What were some of the symbols of the Farmworker Movement? What concepts did they represent?
- Contrast the leadership styles of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.
- How did Cesar Chavez differ from many of the Latino community leaders that came before him? How did his leadership help dispel stereotypes or assumptions some Latinos held about themselves?

EXTENSION I: Mapping the March from Delano

Conduct research to trace the route from Delano to Sacramento. Create a physical or virtual poster that documents the march. In the margins, include key moments from the march as well as symbols, characters and dates that were important to it. Also include a paragraph describing what was achieved once the march was completed.

EXTENSION II: Nonviolent Strategy

The United Farmworkers chose a nonviolent approach to accomplishing their goals. Who and what inspired this strategy? What are some of the benefits of this strategy, as opposed to using force? What are some other social movements from the 1950s through today that have used nonviolent tactics?