



1

Cesar Chavez

Union leader, migrant worker

Unit Study

¹ Picture used with permission from here: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/nostri-
imago/3012229346/sizes/m/in/photostream/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nostri-
imago/3012229346/sizes/m/in/photostream/)

Cesar Chavez was a hard worker. His job was to pick grapes on the farms. It hurt his back, and he did not like it. The farmers did not pay him much. Cesar Chavez asked men to change things. He walked with many men and women to change their pay. The farmers did help Cesar Chavez and his friends. Now workers are paid more.

Underline nouns in red.

Underline verbs in blue.

What did Cesar Chavez do?

How did Cesar Chavez help the workers?

Print off the map [here](#).

Cesar Chavez was born in Arizona. Color Arizona blue. We colored Arizona blue because when Cesar Chavez was 10 years old his parents lost their farm and they had to move to California. Cesar was very sad. Color California purple. In California Cesar and his parents had to work very hard picking grapes. It was hard work, and at the end of the day their backs would hurt from using a short hoe. Their feet would hurt from standing all day. They would be thirsty because they were not allowed to get a drink. It was not fair.

When Cesar grew up he saw Martin Luther King Jr. change things for the African Americans. Now they could vote. Now they

could go to any store they wanted. Cesar wanted that for the farm workers.

Cesar Chavez started to organize them. Together he and the other farm workers decided not to pick grapes one year. Color the bottom part of California brown. The grapes grew moldy on the vines, and were not any good. The farmers tried to make Cesar and his friends work, but Cesar and his friends still did not work.

Cesar wanted everyone to know of their troubles, so Cesar asked everyone to walk with him up to Sacramento. Use a pencil to draw from the bottom of California up to Sacramento (go [here](#) to see where Sacramento is). Before they got to Sacramento the farmers told Cesar and his friends they would get what they wanted.

Because of Cesar's hard work the farm workers were paid more and no longer had to use the short hoe. They were given breaks during the day and things were better.



Look at the picture of Cesar Chavez. Look for details in this picture to help you analyze it.

How did the artist help you to focus on just Cesar Chavez?

What colors did the artist use? How do those colors make you feel?

What did the artist put behind Cesar Chavez's head? Why did he put that there?

Try being a migrant farmer. Find a short stick or a ruler. Now pretend that stick is a hoe, and you must keep it on the ground as you walk.

How does that feel? Is it hard?

How long can you go without getting a drink? The migrant workers could only get a drink when the farmers let them. Would you like that?

Try pulling weeds in your yard outside? Is it hard? Do the weeds ever poke your hands? Imagine doing this all day long with no breaks.