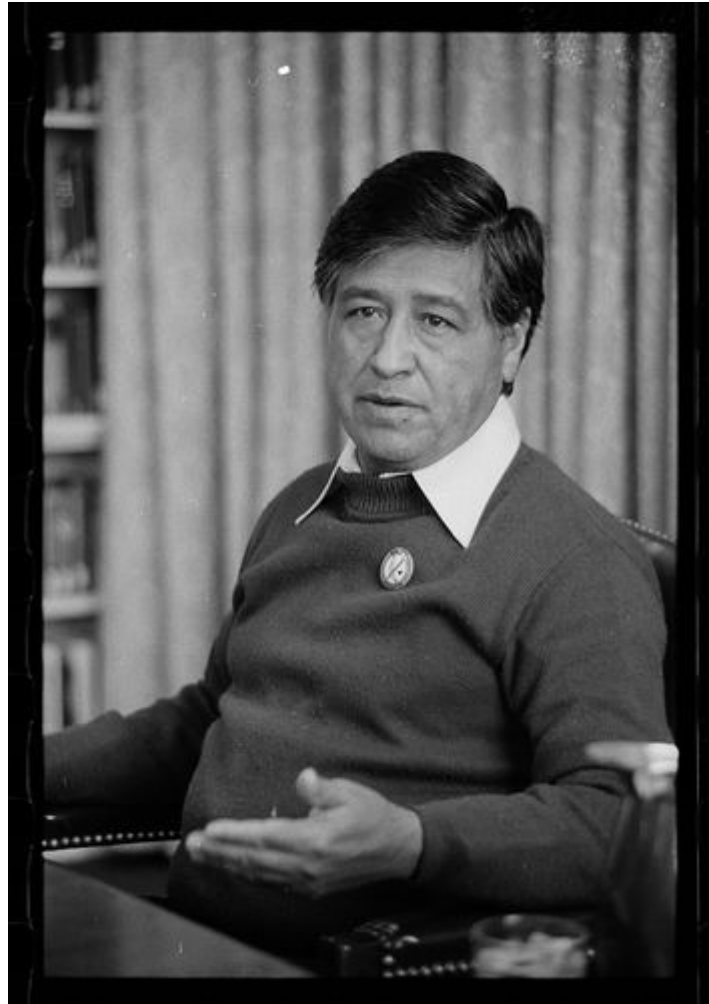


Cesar Chavez



During the 1930s, America was suffering from the Great Depression. This was a time when much of the country was poor. Most people could not find jobs, and food was short. People who worked on farms found they had to travel to find work. Many of them ended up in California. There, they worked on different farms and lived in camps. These people were called migrant workers.

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican American man from Arizona. When he was a boy, his family became migrant workers because of the Great Depression. They had to move to California to find work. He and his family worked in fields. The conditions were poor. Their housing had no electricity or running water. They did hard, tiring work for many hours. And they received little pay for their hard work.

Cesar Chavez decided to do something about the conditions he and other migrant workers dealt with on farms. He created a union for farm workers. This organization aimed to fight for

the rights of farm workers.

In 1965, the union joined a strike against grape growers in California. They were fighting for better pay and working conditions. Chavez encouraged people to use peaceful methods to fight for the rights of the farm workers. He organized a big march to the capital of California. He got people to stop buying grapes from the grape growers. He even went on a hunger strike, refusing to eat for 25 days. Finally, in 1970, Chavez succeeded. Twenty-six of the grape growers signed contracts with his union. They agreed to giving the workers better pay and working conditions.

Chavez continued to fight for the rights of workers for his whole life. Today, he is thought of as a champion for working people everywhere.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Cesar Chavez created a union for farm workers. What did this union want to do?
 - A. fight for the rights of grape growers
 - B. fight for the rights of farm workers
 - C. fight for the rights of poor people across the United States
 - D. fight for the right of people to organize marches

2. In 1970, 26 grape growers agreed to give their farm workers better pay and working conditions. What caused the grape growers to do this?
 - A. Many farm workers traveled to California to work on different farms.
 - B. A lot of people could not find jobs during the Great Depression.
 - C. Cesar Chavez organized a march, got people to stop buying grapes from the grape owners, and went on a hunger strike.
 - D. Cesar Chavez created a union for farm workers that aimed to fight for the rights of farm workers.

3. Cesar Chavez used peaceful methods to fight for the rights of farm workers. What evidence from the text supports this statement?
 - A. Chavez became a migrant worker during the Great Depression.
 - B. Chavez and his family moved to California and worked in fields when he was a boy.
 - C. Chavez and his family had to do hard and tiring work for many hours in the fields.
 - D. Chavez got people to stop buying grapes from the grape growers.

4. In 1970, 26 grape workers signed contracts with Cesar Chavez's union. They agreed to give their workers better pay and working conditions. What can be concluded about the working conditions on the farms of these grape growers before 1970?
 - A. The working conditions were probably very poor and difficult.
 - B. The working conditions were very pleasant.
 - C. The working conditions were much better than the ones on other farms in California.
 - D. The working conditions were better than the working conditions after 1970.

5. What is a main idea of this text?

- A. Many people in the United States were poor during the Great Depression.
- B. Migrant workers faced poor working conditions during the Great Depression.
- C. Cesar Chavez and his family moved to California to find work when he was a boy.
- D. Cesar Chavez successfully fought for the rights of farm workers to improve their pay and working conditions.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"When he was a boy, his family became migrant workers because of the Great Depression. They had to move to California to find work. He and his family worked in fields. The conditions were poor. Their housing had no electricity or running water. They did hard, tiring work for many hours. And they received little pay for their hard work."

Based on this text, what does the word "conditions" most nearly mean?

- A. diseases
- B. the surroundings that affect the way people live or work
- C. people in a group
- D. improvements

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Cesar Chavez and other migrant workers faced very poor conditions on the farms where they worked. _____, Chavez decided to create a union for farm workers.

- A. As a result
- B. On the other hand
- C. Because
- D. Unfortunately

8. Cesar Chavez and his family became migrant workers and moved to California when he was a boy. Describe the conditions Cesar Chavez and his family faced in California.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

9. Explain what made 26 grape growers in California sign contracts with Cesar Chavez's union agreeing to give their workers better pay and working conditions.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Read these sentences from the text.

"Chavez continued to fight for the rights of workers for his whole life. Today, he is thought of as a champion for working people everywhere."

The word "champion" here means someone who speaks or acts in favor of a person or a cause. Explain why people may consider Cesar Chavez to be a champion of working people.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.
