

← Search Results

## Dolores Huerta, Fighting for the Farmers

# Dolores Huerta, Fighting for the Farmers

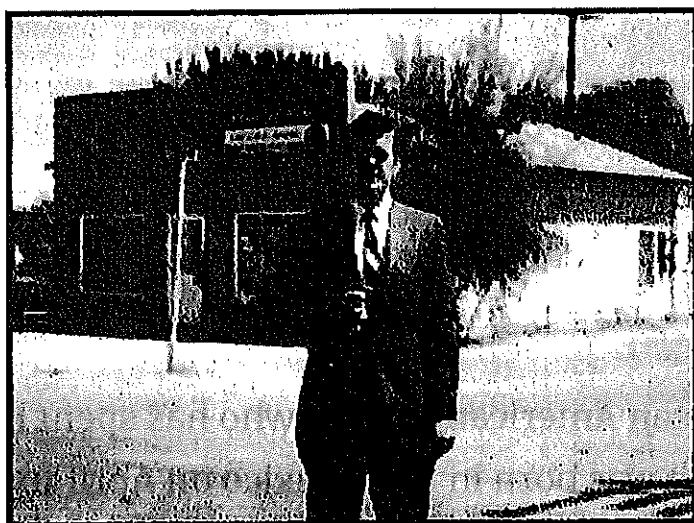


Gary Stevens (CC BY 2.0)

*This is a painting of Dolores Huerta.*

Dolores Huerta is a Mexican American activist who has spent her life fighting for the of workers. Huerta was born in New Mexico on April 10, 1930. When she was a young girl, her mother worked many jobs to save money for her own business. Her mother was able to buy a small hotel and restaurant in California. Huerta's mother showed compassion to her workers and treated them fairly. Huerta was inspired by her mother's actions.

Dolores Huerta got her teaching degree and briefly taught at a few schools. She realized that many of her students were children of farm workers. These children came to school hungry because their families did not have money to feed them. Huerta wanted to help these farmer families. She knew she could have a bigger impact if she workers and fought for better working conditions. In 1955, she co-founded an organization that helped more Hispanic people register to vote. She started working towards getting more opportunity for people in her community.



U.S. National Park Service

*The bottom photo shows the National Farm Workers Association Headquarters in the 1960s. The top photo shows what the building is like today.*

1962, Huerta created the National Farm Workers Association, alongside fellow labor activist Cesar Chavez. This group helped farm workers fight for their . One of Huerta's major achievements was a large strike in 1965. A strike is a type of . This strike occurred in Delano, California. Many grape farm workers were not being paid a good wage and did not have any to ask for better working conditions. Huerta helped over 5,000 grape workers. They stopped working in order to for better working conditions and pay. People around the country began to boycott these grapes to support the strike. To boycott something is to refuse to buy it out of . Huerta helped these farm workers, and many others, negotiate their new working conditions.

Huerta was a strong believer in the power of nonviolent . She continued to lead many strikes and boycotts throughout the 1960s. Huerta's leadership made it possible for workers to form unions. Unions are organizations that protect workers and allow them to bargain for better working conditions.

But Dolores Huerta did not limit herself to helping farm workers. Later in life, she helped elect more Latinos and women to political office. She is an important activist who has spent her life working for others.

# Dolores Huerta, Fighting for the Farmers

---

## Comprehension Questions

1. Who is Dolores Huerta?

- A. a Mexican American activist who fights against climate change
- B. a Mexican American activist who fights for the rights of workers
- C. a Chinese American activist who works to improve immigration laws
- D. a Mexican American activist who fights for the rights of unhoused people

2. When Huerta was a teacher, she saw students who were children of farm workers come to school hungry. What effect did this have on Huerta?

- A. She decided to leave her community and find a different community elsewhere.
- B. She wanted to become a farm worker herself to help organize the workers.
- C. She wanted to help these families by helping them get better working conditions.
- D. She left the school and decided to become a politician.

Read the following sentences from the text.

“One of Huerta's major achievements was organizing a large strike in 1965...Many grape farm workers were not being paid a good wage and did not have any rights to ask for better working conditions. Huerta helped organize over 5,000 grape workers. They stopped working in order to protest for better working conditions and pay. People around the country began to boycott these grapes to support the strike. Huerta helped these farm workers, and many others, negotiate their new working conditions.”

What can you conclude about Huerta's work based on this information?

- A. If enough workers work together with a shared goal, they can make a big change in their working conditions.
- B. Huerta talked directly to bosses at big companies to change working conditions.
- C. Huerta only ever organized 100 to 200 workers at a time, but she always wanted to organize more people.
- D. Workers on grape farms have very different working conditions and pay than any other kind of farm workers.

4. What approach does Dolores Huerta use to make change?

- A. She organizes people to work together to use nonviolent protests.
- B. She encourages people to protest violently.
- C. She uses politics to get laws passed that benefit people.
- D. She organizes people to create their own communities and rules.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. Dolores Huerta was a teacher before she became an organizer and labor rights activist, and her skills as a teacher help her as an organizer.

B. Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta are two important activists who worked together to help farm workers get better working conditions.

C. Dolores Huerta is a Mexican American activist who organizes workers to use nonviolent protest methods to get better working conditions and pay.

D. To boycott a product means that you don't buy a product because you are protesting the company that makes it.