



Carrying on His Grandfather's Legacy

Cesar Chavez, Cesar Chavez Foundation
California

☀ Call to Action

Find ways to use technology to educate and bring hope to oppressed people. Tune in to Radio Campesino: campesina.com. Support the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation: www.chavezfoundation.org.

☀ Values

- Solidarity
- Community
- Service
- Tolerance
- Leadership
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

When faced with adversity, remember:

Sí, se puede!

Always stand up for human rights.

In the fight for climate change, communication is key. Ask yourself: how can your message reach the most people?

“When you bring people together who believe in something very strongly, good things can happen,” Cesar Chavez’s grandfather had taught him.

Cesar saw how hard his grandfather worked; how he brought people together; and how never gave up trying to create a better world for the migrant farmworkers who brought grapes and other food to the tables of their fellow Americans. Cesar also saw how his grandfather never let the negativity of others affect his ability to spread peace and goodwill.

“There is enough love in our movement to give us energy, and still have plenty left over to change the climate of hate and fear around us,” he said. As a teenager, Cesar helped his father set up a radio station to inform migrant workers of their rights, and let them know about services that were available to them. Today he shares his grandfather’s message in communities across California. “My grandfather inspired me to dedicate my life to helping others in any way I can,” he says. “He was our pine tree, and we are his forest.”

☀ Language Arts

Cesar describes his grandfather by using a Mexican saying: “Cesar was our pine tree, and we are his forest.”

Think about what a tree symbolizes, and what the forest symbolizes. What is Cesar saying about his grandfather and the impact he had in people’s lives? Write an explanatory essay in which you explain what this metaphor means.

Watch this [interview of Cesar Chavez from 1992](#)¹. Write a summary of the interview, and then do some research on Cesar Chavez (the grandson). Identify ten ways in which he has continued building on his grandfather’s legacy. Design a poster sharing your findings.

Based on the summary you wrote, pick one main cause Cesar Chavez worked for. Write a short script or short story in

which you detail how you would help his grandson, Cesar, keep fighting for that cause: what new ideas do you have for him? What new ways of protest would you propose?

STEM Activities

In this [lesson plan from BrainPop Educators](#)², use BrainPOP resources to connect the life and achievements of Cesar Chavez to current events. Students will develop an understanding of the effectiveness of non-violent strikes, boycotts, and protest marches in making changes. They will also learn about the typical working conditions of migrant farm workers, and explore how unions are effective by creating their own “union.”

This [lesson plan from the National Park Service](#)³ introduces students to the United Farm Workers. They explore how the impact of one person can be magnified through coalition-building and collective action through a simulation.

In this [lesson plan from Calacademy.org](#)⁴, students practice distinguishing between correlation and causation within the context of global climate change. They analyze various datasets related to what might be causing increasing temperatures in a fictitious town called Solutionville, as well as around the globe. The temperature and carbon dioxide data they will be analyzing are real, and will enable them to see relationships between global temperatures and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Sustainability Innovations

What is the [Cesar Chavez Foundation](#)⁵? How is it perpetuating the legacy of Cesar Chavez, and helping to address the needs of working families?

Using radio as a vehicle for communication is one of the greatest gifts Cesar Chavez gave to the world. In this [2021 article](#), “[Radio Resistance](#),”⁶ an 11-episode podcast addressing the role artists, activists, and scholars play in activism in St. Louis, is addressed. Why is this vehicle, and broadening the framework of change, important?

What is [Farmworker Justice](#)⁷? How do they help support farmers, and why is it important to provide them with legal advice and assistance?

Sustainability Career Pathways

Union Organizer. Unions play an important role in protecting and expanding the rights of workers. Organizers play a role both in strengthening those rights and in expanding unions to unprotected industries. Do you have what it takes to be a union organizer? [Learn more here](#)⁸, and get a free three-day virtual training [here](#)⁹.

Radio Broadcaster. Radio is a powerful means for informing and influencing people--from what music is played, to news stories, interviews, and talk shows. There are many career opportunities in radio: there are jobs for broadcasters, managers, technicians, digital designers, and administrators. If you love radio, this may be the path for you. [Learn more in this comprehensive introduction here](#)¹⁰.

Sustainable Farmer. Shifting industrial farming practices is important to our health, our planet, and to farm workers. Building sustainable farming enterprises that value workers and the planet is another. [This introduction to finding jobs in the field of sustainable agriculture is a good place to start](#)¹¹.

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- 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWOFShsD_pU
 - 2 <https://educators.brainpop.com/lesson-plan/chavez-day-lesson-plan/?bp-topic=cesar-chavez>
 - 3 <https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/the-power-of-one-lessonplan.htm>
 - 4 <https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/the-heat-is-on-cause-and-effect-and-climate>
 - 5 <https://chavezfoundation.org/>
 - 6 <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2021-03-15/wednesday-radio-resistance-explores-connection-between-activism-in-st-louis-and-the-world>
 - 7 <https://www.farmworkerjustice.org/>
 - 8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_organizer
 - 9 <https://aflcio.org/about-us/programs/organizing-institute>
 - 10 <https://www.broadcastcareerlink.com/documents/NABRadioCareers.pdf>
 - 11 <http://grencollarblog.org/sustainable-agriculture-jobs/>

