

Making Inferences

Courageous Leaders Part 2

An **inference** is a conclusion you come to based on reasoning and evidence within a text. Making an inference requires using both information from the text and your background knowledge.



César Chávez - A Brave Leader



César Chávez was born in Arizona in 1927. When his family lost their farm due to financial struggles, they had no other choice but to pack up their belongings and move from farm to farm, **seeking** any work they could find. By the eighth grade, César was forced to quit school and work full-time to support his family.

Working as a migrant worker made Chávez all too familiar with the **somber** conditions in the fields. **Migrant** workers, most of whom were Mexican American, were paid below minimum wage, often worked under unsafe conditions, and were forced to watch their young children work long hours as well.

When Chávez grew up, he decided to help other farm workers like himself. He and his wife taught Mexican immigrants to read, educated new U.S. citizens about voting procedures, and joined a **civil rights** organization, the Community Service Organization. He and other **activists** went on to form the National Farm Workers Association. Through this workers' rights group, Chávez staged strikes against grape growers in 1965 and led a 300-mile march across California. Despite he and other union members being jailed along the way, he continued to fight for his cause.

It wasn't until Chávez asked the American people to **boycott** grapes grown in California that the growers agreed to sign contracts for safer working conditions. Although the name of Chávez's union changed in 1970 to United Farm Workers of America, his organization's **vision** stayed the same. Until his death in 1993, he stayed committed to fighting for **social justice**.

Defining Key Vocabulary

Directions: Look up the definition for each key term listed below and write it on the answer line.

seeking: _____

somber: _____

migrant: _____

civil rights: _____

activist: _____

boycott: _____

vision: _____

social justice: _____

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Directions: Complete the chart by either writing a quote from the text or an inference you can make.

The text states . . .	This most likely means . . .
<p>When Chávez grew up, he decided to help _____</p> <p>other farm workers like himself. _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>What can you infer about Chávez's personality?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>It wasn't until Chávez asked the American people _____</p> <p>to boycott grapes . . . that the growers agreed _____</p> <p>to sign contracts for safer working conditions. _____</p>	<p>What can you infer about the grape growers?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Chávez was not afraid to show others _____</p> <p>that he did not agree with their actions. _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Migrant workers were very _____</p> <p>grateful that Chávez worked hard to try _____</p> <p>to protect their rights. _____</p>