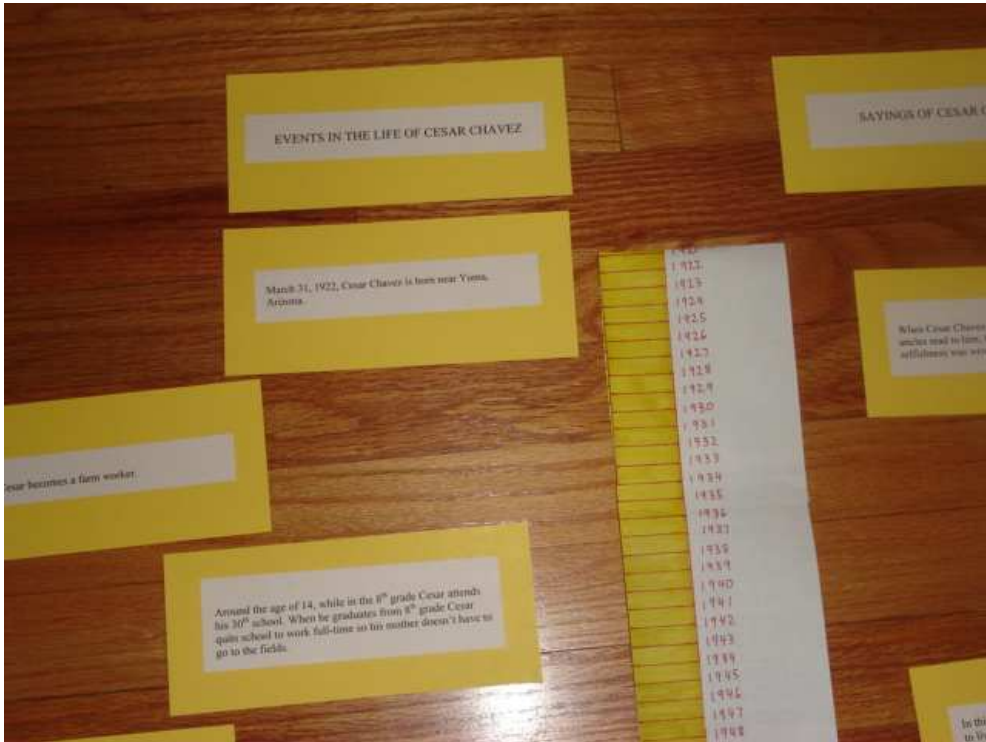


# J Individual Timelines Chavez



## SAYINGS OF CESAR CHAVEZ

## EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CESAR CHAVEZ

**March 31, 1922** Cesar Chavez is born near Yuma, Arizona.

When Cesar Chavez was young his grandfather, father and uncles read to him; his mother taught him that violence and selfishness was wrong.

At age 10 Cesar becomes a farm worker.

Around the age of 14, while in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cesar attends his 30<sup>th</sup> school. When he graduates from 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cesar quits school to work full-time so his mother doesn't have to go to the fields.

In **1948** Cesar marries Helen Fabela. Together they raise 8 children.

In the **1950's** Cesar Chavez reads about Mohandas Gandhi, the apostle of Nonviolence and St. Francis. Cesar realizes two things: the difficult, poor life of those who pick the fruits and vegetables for the people of the United States of America won't change by itself; and violence is not the way to make true change happen.

Cesar Chaves starts his own organization for migrant farm workers in the early **1960's**. It eventually becomes the United Farm Workers.

**1965** Remembering what his mother, Gandhi and St. Francis taught him Cesar Chavez leads a nonviolent strike of California grape pickers and a national boycott of table grapes. This strike lasted 5 years and was a major nonviolent victory for the migrant workers.

Throughout his adult life Cesar Chavez continues to read and study many topics.

**1970-1980's** Cesar Chavez continues to help and organize the migrant farm workers. At least three times he endures serious fasts. Each time Cesar gains awareness of and solutions to the problems of the farm workers. The problems might be poor housing, low pay, poor health care, or dangerous pesticides that hurt the pickers.

**April 23, 1993** Cesar Chavez defends the farm workers in court, visits the neighborhood where he grew up in the evening and dies in his sleep.

“A fast is first and foremost personal. It is a fast for the purification of my own body, mind, and soul. The fast is also a heartfelt prayer for purification and strengthening for all those who work beside me in the farm worker movement.”

“The fast is also an act of penance for those in positions of moral authority and for all men and women activists who know what is right and just, who know that they could and should do more. The fast is finally a declaration of noncooperation with the supermarkets who promote and sell and profit from California table grapes.”

“There is no such thing as defeat in nonviolence.”

“Nonviolence is not inaction. It is not discussion. It is not for the timid or weak. Nonviolence is hard work. It’s the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win.”

“I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice.”

“Through Gandhi and my own life experience I have learned about nonviolence. I believe that human life is a very special gift from God, and that no one has a right to take that away in any cause, however just. I am convinced that nonviolence is more powerful than violence.”

“The end of all education surely should be service to others.”

**April 23, 1993** Cesar Chavez defends the farm workers in court. In the evening he visits the neighborhood where he grew up and later that night dies in his sleep.

“In this world it is possible to achieve great material wealth, to live an opulent life. But a life built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy. In the end, we will be judged by other standards.”