Name: _____ Date: _____

DOLORES HUERTA



Read the biography of Dolores Huerta and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Dolores Huerta (born 1930) is a prominent labor leader and civil rights activist known for her tireless work advocating for the rights of farm workers. Born in Dawson, New Mexico, and raised in Stockton, California, Dolores was influenced early on by her mother's compassion and sense of community. Her mother, Alicia, owned a hotel and often provided shelter and meals to farm workers and other low-income families, which instilled in Dolores a deep sense of social responsibility.

After becoming a teacher, Dolores was disturbed by the poverty she saw among the children of farm workers. Many of her students came to school hungry and without proper clothing because their parents were not paid fair wages for their hard work in the fields. This motivated her to take action, and she left teaching to become a full-time activist.

In 1962, Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers (UFW), with Cesar Chavez. Together, they organized strikes, boycotts, and marches to demand better wages, safer working conditions, and improved living standards for farm workers. One of their most successful campaigns was the Delano Grape Strike, which began in 1965 and lasted for five years. The strike led to significant improvements for farm workers, including the first contracts that provided higher wages and benefits.

Dolores is credited with coining the phrase "Sí, se puede," which means "Yes, we can." This slogan became a rallying cry for the UFW and has been used in many other social justice movements since. Her leadership and advocacy extended beyond labor rights, as she also worked for women's rights, immigrant rights, and education reform.

Throughout her life, Dolores has faced numerous challenges, including physical attacks and arrests during protests, but she has remained steadfast in her commitment to justice. In recognition of her lifelong contributions to civil rights, she has received many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

Even in her 90s, Dolores Huerta continues to be active in social justice work through the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which focuses on community organizing and empowering people to advocate for their rights. Her legacy as a fighter for equality and human rights continues to inspire generations.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What early experiences influenced Dolores Huerta's commitment to social justice?

2 What significant organization did Dolores Huerta co-found in 1962, and what was its purpose?

3 What does the phrase "Sí, se puede" mean, and why is it important?

Use the Village