

# Who Started The United Farm Workers Union? The Story of Cesar Chavez



## **Cesar Chavez: A Life of Advocacy**

Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona, in 1927. He was the son of Mexican immigrants who worked as farm laborers. Chavez grew up in poverty and experienced firsthand the harsh conditions that farm workers faced. He dropped out of school in the eighth grade to help support his family. Chavez worked in the fields for many years, and he witnessed the exploitation and abuse that farm workers endured.

In 1952, Chavez joined the Community Service Organization (CSO), a group that worked to improve the lives of Mexican-Americans. Chavez quickly became a leader in the CSO, and he helped to organize farm workers to fight for their rights. In 1962, Chavez co-founded the National

Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later became the United Farm Workers Union (UFW).



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### **The United Farm Workers Union**

The UFW was a militant union that used strikes and boycotts to improve the working conditions of farm workers. Chavez led a number of successful strikes and boycotts, and he helped to win significant concessions from growers. The UFW's most famous boycott was the Delano grape strike, which lasted for five years and ended with a victory for the union. The Delano grape strike helped to raise public awareness of the plight of farm workers, and it led to the passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which gave farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.

### **Chavez's Legacy**

Cesar Chavez died in 1993, but his legacy continues to live on. The UFW is still a major force in the farm labor movement, and it continues to fight for the rights of farm workers. Chavez's work helped to improve the lives of

millions of farm workers and their families, and he is remembered as one of the most important labor leaders in American history.

Cesar Chavez was a tireless advocate for the rights of farm workers. He led a number of successful strikes and boycotts, and he helped to win significant concessions from growers. Chavez's work helped to improve the lives of millions of farm workers and their families, and he is remembered as one of the most important labor leaders in American history.



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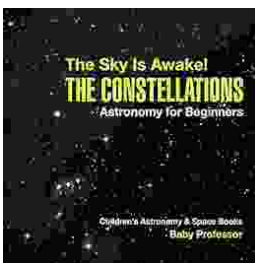
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