

Dolores Huerta & the Fight for Workers' Rights

In this lesson, students will analyze the life and impact of Dolores Huerta, exploring how activism can create social change.

Grades: 6-8		Subject(s): SS
Focus Standard(s)	D2.His.3.6-8. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to analyze why they, and the developments they shaped, are seen as historically significant.	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to identify key challenges people have faced throughout history, and analyze how individuals can create change in their own communities.	
Materials/Resources	Dolores Huerta	
Vocabulary	<p>tolerate: stand; put up with</p> <p>strike: protest that involves not doing one's job</p> <p>gracious: kind</p> <p>labor: work; workforce</p>	
Anticipatory Set	Begin by asking students, "Has anyone ever solved a problem in their neighborhood?" Allow time for students to think and share their thoughts.	
Mini-Lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain to students that there are three levels of problems or challenges people face: Local (neighborhood/town), Regional (state/country), and Global (world) 2. In today's lesson, they will learn about a remarkable woman, Dolores Huerta, who helped migrant farmers overcome a challenge that was both local and regional. 	
Guided Practice	<p>Have students read the article on Dolores Huerta individually or in pairs. Before and during reading, ask them to consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What inspired Huerta to fight for workers' rights? • How did she and César Chávez work together? • Why was the grape workers' strike important? • How has Huerta's work influenced later movements and leaders? <p>Afterward, have students discuss their thoughts on the proposed questions.</p>	
Closure/Assessment	Have students write 1-2 sentences answering the question: How can activism create real change in a community?	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article	