

## The Struggle for Freedom

### Grade 5



**“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”**

**—U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights**

**The Bill of Rights says that “all men are created equal” and lists the rights that are granted to “all men.” Has the Constitution always given equal rights to every U.S. citizen? If not, explain.**

[Answer: No. Although the Constitution claims that “all men are created equal,” throughout our nation’s history, people have not always been treated equally. Women, children, and African-Americans were once considered to be property and were not granted equal rights.]

**When it was written, the U.S. Constitution only protected the rights of citizens who were white, male, and over the age of 21 and who owned property. Such inequality led to the formation of movements that fought for women’s rights, civil rights, and the rights of other oppressed groups, such as migrant farm workers.**

**Similarly, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) does not provide equal protection to all animals. For example, animals who are raised for food, those who are used for entertainment, and many who are sold in the pet trade are not protected by the AWA.**

Activity: On a separate sheet of paper, write your own version of the AWA that extends protection to all animals. Include information about how to properly care for animals and an explanation of why it is so important to protect and respect all animals.

**César Chávez believed that all animals deserve respect and protection, so he became a vegetarian and spoke out for the rights of all animals, as well as for the rights of farm workers.**

**Why was Chávez considered to be part of the animal rights movement?**

[Answer: Chávez believed in the philosophy of nonviolence toward all living beings. He used nonviolent methods to try to help animals gain the protection and respect that he knew they deserved.]

**Upon receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award from In Defense of Animals, a national animal rights organization, Chávez said:**

**“The respect for all living things is essential to anyone working for social change. What benefits the animals, benefits the people too. It is time to end the exploitation of animals for science, for fashion, and yes, even for food.”**

**Explain what Chávez meant when he said, “What benefits the animals, benefits the people too.”**

[Answers may vary. Example: Chávez believed that people who act with compassion and empathy toward animals are more likely to treat their fellow human beings with respect, dignity, and kindness. He hoped that teaching people to value the lives of animals would lead to a less violent, more compassionate society.]

**Chávez demonstrated that change can happen without violence. He organized the United Farm Workers (UFW) to campaign for the rights of farm workers, most of whom were underpaid and overworked and living in unhealthy and dangerous environments.**

**How did Chávez educate the public about the need for farm workers' rights?**

[Answer: He fasted and led nonviolent protests, demonstrations, and boycotts.]

[Discuss the grape boycott of the 1980s.]

**How did Chávez teach people that all animals deserve to be protected and respected?**

[Answer: He taught through providing a good example. He adopted a vegetarian lifestyle and practiced nonviolence. He was inspired by the nonviolent philosophy of Gandhi, whom he highly respected.]

[For further discussion: Discuss Gandhi and his philosophy of nonviolence.]

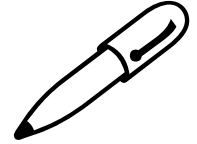
**Describe two things that you can do to help animals.**

[Answers will vary. Discuss as a class.]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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