

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers

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Introduction: Labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers (originally called the National Farm Workers Association) with César Chávez in 1962. She has been an activist for workers' rights, women's rights, and immigrant rights. In 2012, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

Lesson ***From Planter to Plate***

GRADE LEVEL: 1-3

TIME ALLOCATION: 30 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Activity Sheet- From Planter to Plate
- Writing tools
- Copy of *Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers*
- Optional: Document camera

OBJECTIVES:

- The student will be introduced to Dolores Huerta and her role as an activist for farm workers.
- The student will identify the human and capital resources required to get food from the farmer's field to the consumer's table.
- The student will sequence the steps involved in food production.
- The students will consider the risks and responsibilities of food production.

VIRGINIA STANDARD OF LEARNING- HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

K.8 The student will match simple descriptions of work that people do with the names of those jobs.

K.9 The student will

- a) recognize that people make choices because they cannot have everything they want; and
- b) explain that people work to earn money to buy the things they want.

2.10 The student will explain that scarcity (limited resources) requires people to make choices about producing and consuming goods and services.

Women Making Choices:
Athletes, Artists, and Activists

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS:

- **Choice** – selecting something over another thing.
- **Goods** – material things that provide for wants. Examples include shoes, cookies, and books
- **Earned Income** - to provide labor for monetary payment
- **Human Resources** – the quality and quantity of human effort directed toward producing goods and services.
- **Human Capital** – labor resources that can be improved through investments in education, training, and health care.
- **Job**- a paid position of regular employment.
- **Scarcity** – the condition of limited resources-- because resources are limited, people must make choices.

PROCEDURE:

1. Prepare and collect materials prior to class.
2. Introduce the lesson by showing the students the cover of the book, *Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers*. Ask them if they have ever heard of Dolores Huerta. Tell the students that this book is a biography, a non-fiction book that recounts someone's life.
3. Read the book to the class if time allows. This takes about five minutes. A YouTube reading can be located here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPfiLygcusg>
4. Explain that Dolores Huerta cared about people and wanted farm workers to be treated fairly. She made it her mission to see that they were.
5. Ask the students if they ever stopped to think about all the steps it took to get food from the farm to their table. Discuss what they think this process would entail, detailing the workers (human resources) and equipment (tools or capital resources) that would be needed for each step.
6. Display the activity sheet From Planter to Plate. Read the directions to the students. This may be completed as a teacher directed activity or by small student groups as a worksheet.
7. Check for understanding. Possible answers:

JOB (Human Resource)	TOOL (Capital Resource)
Produce Picker	Basket
Food Processor	Factory
Truck Driver	Delivery Truck
Store Clerk	Cash Register
Cook	Pots & Pans

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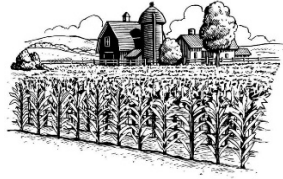
EXTENSION & ENRICHMENT:

- Using the content of the featured book, *Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers*, conduct a classroom discussion by asking the following questions:
 - 1) Why is Dolores Huerta famous?
 - 2) What kind of community did Dolores grow up and work in?
 - 3) How do you think Dolores's childhood played a part in her concern for farm workers?
 - 4) What does an activist do?
 - 5) What were some of the challenges Dolores faced as she did her work?
- Discuss some of the difficulties and challenges that face the workers who provide food. Examples: Farm workers are exposed to pesticides and spend long hours in the sun. Truck drivers face dangers on the road and bad weather conditions. Workers who process the food in factories work long hours with few breaks.

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Activity

From Planter to Plate



Directions: Use the words in the WORD BANK to fill out the chart. List the jobs in the order it takes to get food from the farm to the dinner table.

JOB (Human Resource)	TOOL (Capital Resource)
Planter	Tractor

EXAMPLE:

JOB (Human Resource)	TOOL (Capital Resource)

Word Bank

Basket	Delivery Truck	Pots & Pans
Cash Register	Factory	Produce Picker
Cook	Food Processor	Store Clerk

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Truck Drive

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