



The month of March is designated as **Women's History Month**. Whether you decide to celebrate it through a literature study or inquiry into the lives of real women, the resources below can get you started:

<https://ncte.org/blog/2018/03/march-national-womens-history-month/>

<https://ncte.org/blog/2019/03/ncte-books-women/>

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

## César Chávez: The Man and Leader



A true American hero, César Chávez was a civil rights, Latino and farm labor leader; a genuinely religious and spiritual figure; a community organizer and social

entrepreneur; a champion of militant nonviolent social change; and a crusader for the environment and consumer rights.

A first-generation American, he was born on March 31, 1927 near his family's small homestead outside Yuma, Arizona. At age 11, his family lost their farm during the Great Depression and became migrant farm workers. César finished his formal education after the eighth grade and worked the fields full-time to help support his family. Throughout his youth and into adulthood, César traveled the migrant streams throughout California laboring in the fields, orchards and vineyards where he was exposed to the hardships and injustices of farm worker life.

César's career in community organizing began in 1952, when he was recruited and trained by Fred Ross, legendary community organizer who formed the San Jose chapter of the Community Service Organization—the most prominent Latino civil rights group of its time. spent César 10 years with

the CSO, coordinating voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, leading campaigns against racial and economic discrimination, and organizing new CSO chapters across California.

Yet César's dream was to organize a union that would protect and serve the farm workers whose poverty and powerlessness he had shared. He knew the history of farm worker organizing unveiled story after another of broken unions and strikes crushed by violence. He also knew the experts said organizing farm workers was impossible. Despite skepticism, César was the first to apply boycotts to major labor-management disputes, ultimately forcing growers to bargain union contracts and agree to California's pioneering farm law—the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975. It's the first and only law guaranteeing farm workers' rights.

**His birthday, March 31st, is an official holiday in 10 states, Colorado included.** Please take time to share his legacy with students!

## CDE Reminders

**EVERYONE COUNTS** Census 2020 The information gathered from the census will affect the amount of federal education dollars coming into Colorado over the next decade—in millions of dollars. For reference, between 2011 and 2018, Colorado school districts received \$3.56 billion. [Learn how much of that federal income came to your district between 2011 and 2018 \(PDF\)](#)

**Census Day is April 1, 2020!** By this date, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. [CDE has created this toolkit](#) to help communicate with parents about the importance of responding to the census.

## Announcement(s) from the SIS Office

The Office of Standards and Instructional Support (SIS) has launched its [Setting the Standard](#) podcast. Our intention is to share news, interviews, teaching tips, and content expertise from each content specialist on the SIS team. Click [here](#) to listen to our monthly podcast.

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