



Cesar Chavez's Childhood

Cesar Chavez spent his boyhood on a farm in Yuma, Arizona, where his family owned both a farm and a local grocery store. It was a happy childhood. But then the Great Depression swept across the country. When Cesar was eleven years old, his father lost his farm. Not knowing what else to do, the family moved to California to look for work.

Cesar's formal education was over after the eighth grade, as he had to work full time along with his parents to help support his family. They were migrant workers, meaning that he moved around, following the work. While laboring in fields, orchards, and vineyards during his youth and into adulthood, Cesar saw firsthand the difficult and unfair working conditions that farm workers faced.

1. Why did Chavez and his family move to California?

2. What does it mean to be a migrant worker?

3. What did Chavez learn about the life of migrant farm workers while he was still a youth?