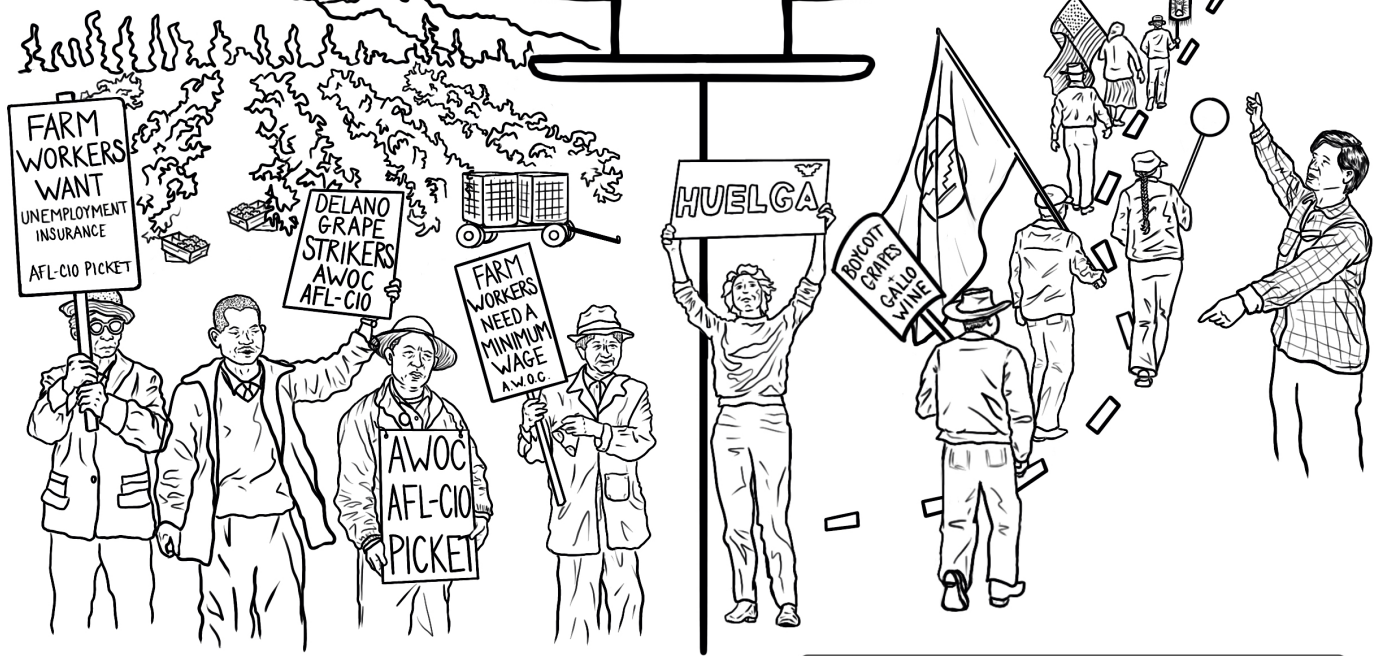




HUELGA!



Delano Grape Strike & Boycott
California and beyond, 1965-70



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook

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Delano Grape Strike & Boycott, California and beyond, 1965-70

In 1965, Filipino farm workers went on strike in the vineyards of California, protesting terrible working conditions and cuts to their pay. When owners tried to replace them with Mexican workers, strike leader Larry Itliong reached out to labor organizers Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Together, Filipinos and Mexicans went on strike together in solidarity. After picketing in the fields, they marched 300 miles to Sacramento to bring their demands to the state capital. Allies and supporters asked people to boycott California grapes and wine. People brought signs to grocery stores nationwide. President Nixon tried to crush the farm workers by buying the grape harvest and sending it to troops in Vietnam. On the docks of Oakland, CA, the longshoremen refused to load the crates. 10,000 tons of grapes rotted. It took five years of striking, organizing, boycotting, and protesting, but the solidarity of the United Farm Workers prevailed. They won a collective bargaining agreement for 10,000 farm workers, and gained pay increases, health benefits, and more.

Look Closer! Can you spot these details?

- How old are the Filipino men who are leading the strike in Delano? Because racist laws prohibited older Asian immigrant men from bringing over their families or marrying interracially, many workers on the frontline were the “manongs” (an honorific for older ‘uncles’) who felt they could risk violent repression because they did not have families to support or protect.
- Where’s Larry Itliong? The man in the hat on the right hand side of the vineyard picket line is Larry Itliong, the Filipino leader of this campaign. If you look very closely, you can see that he is missing some fingers—he lost them in a work-related accident.
- What is that word: *huelga*? *Huelga* means strike in Spanish. The woman holding that sign is Dolores Huerta, a key Mexican-American labor organizer of the strike.
- Where are they marching to? On the right, organizer Cesar Chavez is pointing out the route for the 300-mile-long march to the Sacramento State Capitol.

Discussion Questions:

- What does “solidarity” mean? How did it give the farmworkers power and strength?
- The farm workers used many types of action to achieve their goals. What were they? How did the campaign grow stronger over time?
- Who do you think harvests the food you eat? How can you find out if they are being treated fairly or unfairly?
- Looking back, some people who were children in 1965 remember asking why there were no grapes on the table. Imagine one of your favorite things was the target of a boycott ... like a pizza boycott ... or a cell phone boycott. Would it be hard or easy to give up these items until the workers were paid fairly?

Find more information, discussion questions, articles, documentaries, and more at:

www.paceebene.org/coloring-pages

**Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook
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