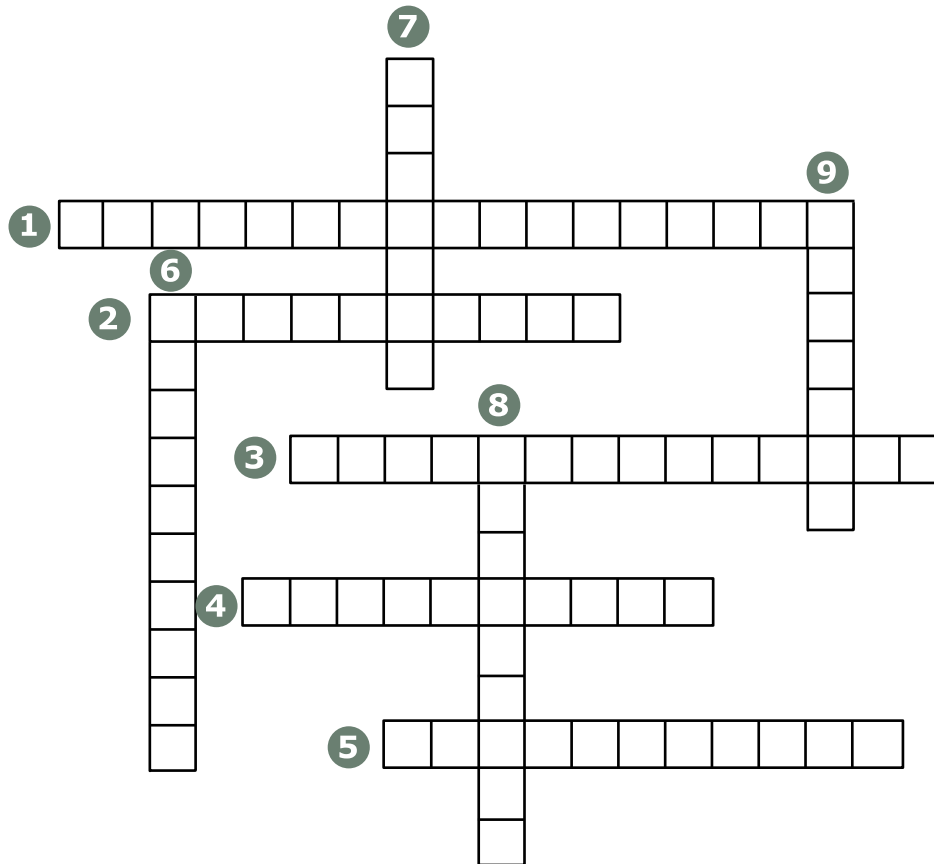


# CROSSWORD: A WORD ABOUT HISTORY

This is a crossword puzzle about Latinos in the United States. To complete the puzzle, read the brief essays on the following pages on each person/topic. All the answers are in the essays.



## ACROSS

- 1 What organization was Dolores Huerta responsible for co-founding?
- 2 What was the goal of the Puerto Rican Young Lords for Puerto Rico?
- 3 What did the U.S. government initiate to fill the gap left when American workers went to fight in World War II?
- 4 What was one of the things that people protested during the Chicano Moratorium in 1970?
- 5 As César Chávez was organizing farmworkers to unionize for better working conditions and wages, what principal was he committed to?

## DOWN

- 6 What is the name of the founder and artistic director of El Teatro Campesino (first and last name)?
- 7 Who was the journalist killed during the 1970 National Chicano Moratorium (last name)?
- 8 This Bolivian-American math teacher was immortalized in a movie. (last name)

# CROSSWORD: A WORD ABOUT HISTORY - ESSAYS

These essays are designed to accompany the South Asian Diversity crossword puzzle.

## C SAR CHÁVEZ 1927–1993

- Growing up in a migrant family that harvested fruits and vegetables, César Estrada Chávez was aware of the need for farmworkers to gain improved working conditions. He became a volunteer organizer for the Community Service Organization, which addressed the needs of farmworkers and the poor.
- In 1962 with the help of Dolores Huerta and others Chávez founded and led the first successful farmworkers' union in the United States, the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers).
- Committed to nonviolent protest, the union led many strikes and boycotts of agricultural products, including a five-year grape strike and boycott in the mid-1960s that was honored by more than 17 million Americans. This success forced growers to support the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which granted farmworkers better wages and working conditions and the right to collectively organize.

## LUIS VALDEZ

- In 1965, after working with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Luis Valdez, an aspiring playwright, joined the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, led by César Chávez, in Delano, California. He had a vision of a political theater that would serve as support to the organizational activities of the striking farmworkers.
- Valdez is founder and artistic director of El Teatro Campesino (The Farmworkers' Theatre). He described the beginnings of El Teatro Campesino as an immediate emotional response of the farmworkers to the incidents occurring at the picket line. The themes and tone of the Teatro were based on a number of contemporary issues, such as the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War.
- Valdez wrote and directed the popular 1987 film *La Bamba* (the story of Mexican-American rock-and-roll singer Richie Valens) and the musical *Zoot Suit* (1981).

## PUERTO RICAN YOUNG LORDS

- In Chicago in the 1960s, José "Cha Cha" Jiménez took the Young Lords, at the time a well-known street gang, and developed an organization dedicated to the struggle for the human rights of Latinos/as in the United States and for the liberation of Puerto Rico.
- They believed that all institutions in a community should be accountable to the people they were set up to serve. The lack of response on the part of institutions led the group to take direct action. They formed alliances with other political groups to bring attention to the deplorable conditions existing in poor communities.

# CROSSWORD: A WORD ABOUT HISTORY - ESSAYS

## PUERTO RICAN YOUNG LORDS (continued)

- A New York chapter started in 1969 set up community programs, produced, published and distributed a newspaper called PALANTE and produced a weekly radio show of the same name on WBAI. They addressed issues concerning prisoners, women, the working poor, Vietnam War veterans and high school students.

## ZOOT SUIT RIOTS

- Mexicans and Mexican Americans have historically experienced prejudice and oppression in the United States, including blame for high crime rates. This was especially true in the 1940s when anti-Mexican sentiment ran high. Mexican-American teenagers, who called themselves pachucos, dressed in long jackets and wide pants with extremely long watch chains, patterned after young men in Harlem. Anglos generally felt that only hoodlums wore zoot suits.

- On June 3, 1943, 11 sailors on leave in Los Angeles walked into a barrio and became involved in a brawl with a group of Mexican Americans. Anglos in Los Angeles were outraged by news of the incident and blamed the Mexican Americans.

- The next day 200 sailors hired a fleet of taxis and circled the barrios of Los Angeles. Each time they came upon a young man who looked Mexican, they beat him to a pulp. African Americans and Filipinos were sometimes mistaken for Mexicans or were beaten just because they were not Caucasian. Thousands of people joined in the riots, and police looked the other way.

- The riots sparked waves of anti-Mexican sentiment, and Mexican Americans were attacked in various communities throughout the United States. Playwright Luis Valdez wrote a play entitled Zoot Suit, which was made into a movie in 1981.

## RUBEN SALAZAR 1929–1970

*"It's easy for the establishment to say 'Aren't we all the same? Aren't we all Americans?' Well, obviously we're not; otherwise we wouldn't be in the revolutionary process that we are in now."*

- Ruben Salazar was news director for KMEX-TV, Channel 34, Los Angeles' first Spanish-language TV station, covering stories in East Los Angeles and other barrios ignored by the English-language media. He also started a weekly column in the Los Angeles Times on Chicano issues.
- Salazar was killed during the August 1970 National Chicano Moratorium March when Los Angeles police shot a tear gas missile through the door of the Silver Dollar Bar on Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles, where Salazar was sitting.

# CROSSWORD: A WORD ABOUT HISTORY - ESSAYS

## JAIME ESCALANTE

- Jaime Escalante is the inspiring math teacher who has changed the lives of Latino students in one of Los Angeles' poorest neighborhoods. In 1982, teaching classed that had high failure rates, Escalante motivated a small group of students from Garfield High School to take the AP calculus exam. They passed. Believing that the students had cheated, the Educational Testing Service, which administers the test, invalidated the scores. Most of the 18 pupils retook the test and passed again. By 1991, the number of Garfield students taking advanced placement examinations in math and other subjects had increased to 570.
- Escalante fought for better textbooks and inspired his students to succeed by setting high standards and winning over his tough students.
- He was immortalized in the 1988 movie Stand and Deliver.

## DOLORES HUERTA

- Dolores C. Huerta is the co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO with César Chávez. She has played a major role in the American civil rights movement.
- In 1961, Huerta's successful lobbying in Sacramento led to citizenship requirements being removed from the criteria for participation in pension and public assistance programs. She was instrumental in the passage of legislation that enforces the right to vote in Spanish and the right to take the driver's license examination in Spanish.
- In 1963, she was instrumental in establishing the federal Aid for Dependent Families program for the unemployed and underemployed and disability insurance for California's farmworkers.
- Huerta was the UFW's chief negotiator, and in 1966, she was able to win contracts that established the first health and benefit plans for farmworkers and required growers to stop using dangerous pesticides, such as DDT and Parathyon.
- In 1975 Huerta lobbied for legislation to grant amnesty for farmworkers who had lived, worked and paid taxes in the United States for many years but were not allowed to enjoy the privileges of citizenship. Her work resulted in the Immigration Act of 1985.

# CROSSWORD: A WORD ABOUT HISTORY - ESSAYS

## THE BRACERO PROGRAM

- Thousands and eventually millions of Mexican nationals came to the United States as temporary workers when the U.S. government initiated the Bracero Program in the 1940s. The goal of the program was to fill the gap created when American workers went off to fight in World War II. Mexican workers were mostly agricultural, and during the 1950s and '60s comprised 25 percent of all farm workers in the United States.
- Braceros were treated poorly, and conditions were deplorable. Workers received bad food, excessive wage deductions, physical mistreatment, miserable housing (sometimes little more than enlarged chicken coops), rampant prejudice and exposure to deadly pesticides.
- Farm bosses in the United States came to rely on braceros until increased mechanization in agriculture, coupled with labor's growing opposition to the hiring of Mexican aliens, led to the final dissolution of the program in 1964. Braceros continued to work American farms for several more years.
- Mexican migrant workers continue to be one of the most exploited groups in the United States.

## CHICANO MORATORIUM 1970

- The National Chicano Moratorium of August 29, 1970, was largest antiwar demonstration ever staged on the streets of East Los Angeles. It protested the Vietnam War and the high number of Chicanos drafted and killed. This massive gathering and march of 10,000 people ended in violence when Los Angeles sheriffs attacked demonstrators. Hundreds of Chicanos were injured and unjustly arrested and more than \$1 million in property was destroyed. Journalist Ruben Salazar, Brown Beret Angel Díaz and Lyn Ward were killed during this protest.
- Student organizations held demonstrations, demanding that their language, culture and contributions be recognized in all educational institutions from elementary schools to universities.
- On August 25, 1990, the National Chicano Moratorium Committee peacefully brought together more than 8,000 demonstrators to march on Whittier Boulevard, on the route of the August 1970 march, to protest the abhorrent conditions that still exist in barrios.