

Name _____



Labor Leaders Spotlight

Directions: Read the short biographies below about major labor leaders such as **César Chávez**, **Mother Jones**, and **A. Philip Randolph**. Then, answer the questions below to show what you learned about their impact and how they connect to the spirit of Labor Day.

César Chávez (1927-1993)

César Chávez was a Mexican-American labor leader who co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) union. He fought for fair wages and safe working conditions for farm laborers through peaceful protests, boycotts, and strikes. His motto, "*Si, se puede*" ("Yes, it can be done"), continues to inspire workers' movements today.

Mother Jones (1837-1930)

Known as "the most dangerous woman in America" by factory owners, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones organized coal miners and child laborers in the early 1900s. She spoke boldly against injustice, demanding fair pay and the end of child labor. Her courage made her a symbol of strength for working people everywhere.

A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979)

A. Philip Randolph was a civil rights activist and labor organizer who founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first major African American labor union. He used his leadership to challenge racial discrimination and demand equal opportunities for Black workers. His advocacy influenced both the labor and civil rights movements.

1. What common goals did all three leaders share in their movements?
2. How did each leader use peaceful action or organization to fight for workers' rights?
3. What challenges did these leaders face while pushing for fairness and equality?
4. How does their work connect to the purpose of Labor Day today?
5. Choose one leader and explain what modern issue they might care about if they were alive today.