

Labor Leaders Spotlight Answer Key

1. They all fought for fair treatment, better pay, and safer working conditions for workers.
2. Chávez used strikes and boycotts; Mother Jones organized marches and speeches; Randolph built labor unions and pushed for civil rights.
3. Each faced opposition from powerful businesses and government resistance but continued their activism despite threats.
4. Labor Day celebrates the progress made by workers and leaders like them who fought for fairness and dignity.
5. (Answers will vary) Examples: Chávez might advocate for farmworker rights; Randolph might support fair wages or anti-discrimination laws; Mother Jones might fight for child labor protections or workplace safety.

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** Strengthens reading comprehension, research skills, and social awareness by connecting historical labor leaders to modern workplace fairness.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - *Grades 8-9:* Use shorter versions of the biographies and define key terms (e.g., union, boycott, discrimination).
 - *Grades 10-12:* Have students conduct independent research on an additional labor leader and compare their methods.
 - *Advanced learners:* Encourage them to evaluate which leader had the most lasting impact and justify their opinion with evidence.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Hold a "Labor Leaders Gallery Walk" where students post short bios and quotes around the classroom.
 - Encourage students to create a visual poster or digital slide inspired by one leader's legacy.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Connect this activity to current labor movements or protests for fair pay.
 - Assign a persuasive writing task: "What would a modern Labor Day speech by these leaders sound like today?"