Symbols of Farm Worker Rights: Organic UFW Flag

**DESCRIPTION**

Symbols can communicate powerful messages and can be used as a way to bring attention to a social cause or campaign. Symbols can be used to bring people together under one message that can be easily understood without using words. First designed in 1962 by Richard Chávez, the eagle on the United Farm Workers (UFW) flag is a symbol of pride and dignity used to unify union members across linguistic backgrounds. Its geometric design made it easy for people to replicate on banners, flags, posters, buttons, and clothing!

This activity will explore the UFW flag and will guide you through a hands-on art activity. Gather red, white, and black organic materials you might have in your kitchen cupboards or that you might find outside to make an organic UFW flag.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

1. What can people do to create change?

2. What is the significance behind the symbolism of the UFW flag? What do you see in the flag? What do the symbols in the flag mean to you?

**BOOK READ ALOUD**

Listen to Paul Chávez, President of the Cesar Chavez Foundation, read:

*Side by Side, Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez.*

Written by Monica Brown.
Illustrated by Joe Cepeda.

YouTube video available on LA Plaza’s channel.

**MATERIALS**

- cardboard (inside of a cereal box)
- white paper
- watercolors
- two paint brushes
- cup of water
- pencil
- eraser
- black marker
- liquid glue
- ruler
- large circular item (example: bowl or mug)

*Look in your kitchen or outdoors for these materials or something similar in color:*

- black natural materials (black beans, seeds, soil)
- white natural materials (pumpkin seeds, flower petals, corn, white beans)
- red natural materials (flower petals, seeds, red beans, bark)
WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Glue the piece of white paper onto the cardboard.
2. Using a circular item and pencil, trace a circle onto to the center of the paper.
3. Observe the United Farmworkers Workers flag, notice the lines and curves that are used to make the eagle symbol.


4. Use the ruler to make the straight lines and fretted steps of the eagle’s wings.
5. Using watercolor paints paint the eagle and its surrounding areas.
6. Once dry, use a black marker to outline the drawing.
7. Time to get creative! To fill in the eagle with black organic materials, apply glue to the entire area first and then sprinkle or place materials on top.
8. Fill in the white and red area of the flag. Repeat the same steps as before and allow time to dry.

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

1. United Farm Workers: www.ufw.org