

Summary: National Heroes

Washington and Lincoln

Presidents have done important work for our country. George Washington led soldiers during a war in a fight for freedom from rule by England. Then he became the country's first president.

Abraham Lincoln believed in justice. When he became President of the United States, the North and South did not agree about slavery. The South wanted to leave the nation and continue to have slaves. Lincoln and the North wanted the country to stay together. The two sides went to war. President Lincoln led our country during the war and said that all slaves were free. His courage helped keep the country together.

Leaders for Change

Many leaders have worked for people's rights. Susan B. Anthony worked to get women the right to vote. She gave speeches about the importance of voting in a democracy.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King spent much of their lives working for civil rights. They believed that all people should be treated the same. Over time, the government passed laws to protect the rights of African Americans

Cesar Chavez spoke out for the rights of farm workers. His ideas helped pass laws that improved conditions for farm workers.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

justice *noun*, fairness

slavery *noun*, a system under which certain people have no freedom

civil rights *noun*, the rights that countries protect for citizens



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways were Washington and Lincoln great leaders?

Draw a box around two sentences that tell what Washington did. Highlight the two sentences that tell what Lincoln did.

REVIEW How did Cesar Chavez work to protect the rights of others? Circle the two sentences that answer the question.