

Latino/a American Activists and Leaders

A note to caregivers: This resource is designed to help everyone learn the stories of Latino/a American activists and leaders, past and present, who have stood up for the rights of their own communities and others. Take a look through and think about how you want to share these stories with your children or students. Older children may be able to read through the stories on their own, while younger children might benefit from reading through together with a caregiver. For each story, take time to reflect and talk through the **Questions to Explore** together.

Pro tip: For help explaining tricky vocabulary, check out the definitions of key terms at the end of this resource!



Do you know what an activist is? Activists are like real-life superheroes! They use their words and actions to help make things more fair and right so that the world is a better place for everyone. Just like how superheroes try to help other people, activists stand up for what they believe in so that everyone has what they need and is treated fairly.



But, activists can't do their important work by themselves. Most of the time, activists work in solidarity with other people who might be different from them because they know that they have more power to make change happen if they work together. Being in solidarity means standing up together, across different groups like race and ethnicity, to make sure everyone is treated fairly. It's just like how superheroes also work in teams because they each have a unique power that can help make a difference. But, unlike superheroes in books or movies, activists are also regular people. **Anyone can be an activist!** And, activists help each other out because they know their voices are stronger if they work together.

Latino and Hispanic communities are not just part of American history – they've also played important roles in *shaping* American history. Here, we'll learn about examples of Latino/a American activists and leaders who have all worked hard to make our country and our world a better place.

Sal Castro

A lifelong educator in Los Angeles, California, who helped organize school walkouts and became a hero for Mexican American students in the 1960s.



Born on October 25, 1933, Sal Castro lived and went to school in both Los Angeles and Mexico during his childhood. He experienced and witnessed discrimination and even violence against Mexican Americans in LA. He became a teacher and saw that schools in Latino neighborhoods did not treat students with respect. Their classes were overcrowded, they were not allowed to speak Spanish, and many teachers had very low expectations for Mexican American students. Sal encouraged his students to speak up about unfair conditions in their schools. In 1968, he helped organize a protest called the East LA Walkouts, also known as the "Chicano Blowouts." Thousands of Mexican American students walked out of their schools to protest the unfair treatment they were receiving. It was one of the biggest student protests in American history. Because of his role in the walkouts, Sal was arrested and almost lost his teaching job, but people in the community fought hard to keep him in the classroom, and he was able to keep teaching. The walkouts helped bring attention to the problems Latino students faced, and schools slowly began to make improvements — like hiring more Latino teachers and offering classes that included Mexican American history and culture. Sal Castro spent the rest of his life encouraging Latino students to stay in school, go to college, and stand up for their rights. He believed that education was the most powerful tool a person could have.

"The students knew that whatever changes they could bring about in the schools would not affect them but they hoped it would affect those who came behind them."

What do you think Sal meant?

Questions to Explore

- What is a walkout? What is the effect of one person walking out of school or work versus hundreds or thousands?
- Why do you think Sal was arrested? Why do you think he was willing to risk getting in trouble to help his students organize?
- Why is it important that students from all racial and ethnic background have a fair education?

Rosa Clemente

A Black Puerto Rican American activist, journalist, and scholar who has spent her life fighting for the rights of Black and Latino communities in the United States.



Rosa Clemente is a community organizer, journalist, and activist who has spent her life fighting for the rights of Black and Latino communities in the United States. She was born in New York City and grew up in the South Bronx, a neighborhood where she saw firsthand how poverty and inequality affected the people around her. Rosa is Afro-Puerto Rican, and her identity has deeply shaped her work — she has long fought to help people of African and Latino descent understand and celebrate their shared history and culture. She became known in hip-hop communities as someone who used music and culture as tools for social change. Rosa was also a strong voice in organizing relief efforts after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, helping to bring attention to the suffering of Puerto Rican people when many felt the government was not doing enough to help. In 2008, she made history by becoming the first Afro-Latina to run for Vice President of the United States, on the Green Party ticket. Rosa has worked in media and journalism to make sure that stories from communities of color are told honestly and fairly. She continues to speak, write, and organize on behalf of people who are often ignored by those in power, reminding everyone that justice must include all people.

“My Blackness is one of the greatest powers I have.”

What do you think Rosa meant?

Questions to Explore

- How do you think the place where you grow up can shape what you care about and fight for as you get older?
- How can media (music, TV, movies, etc.) be used to create social change?
- Why is it important for people to speak up when they feel their government is not treating people fairly?

Laurie Hernandez

A Puerto Rican American Olympic gymnast and actor who advocates for mental health awareness.



Laurie Hernandez was born on June 9, 2000 and grew up in New Jersey in a Puerto Rican family. As a child, she loved to move and dance and started gymnastics at a very young age. She trained for many hours and worked hard to reach her goals. When she was 16, Laurie went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics. She helped her team win a gold medal and also won a silver medal on the balance beam. People admired her not just for her athletic skill, but for her bright smile and joy. After the Olympics, Laurie began to speak more about something very important—mental health. She shared that training and competing could be very stressful and that athletes can feel pressure and fear. Laurie now speaks openly about her own experiences of anxiety and depression and her diagnosis of ADHD. She also shares about how she cares for herself by taking breaks, going to therapy, journaling, taking medication, and talking to the people in her support system. She wants people to know that it is okay to rest and ask for help when you need it. Laurie has written two books – one for adults, sharing her story, and one for children, about a little girl who wants to be a gymnast and learns to get back up and try again after falling. Laurie Hernandez helps remind all of us of the importance of taking care of our minds as well as our bodies.

Questions to Explore

- What is mental health?
- Why do you think some people who struggle with stress, anxiety, and depression don't ask others for help?
- What strategies do you use to take care of yourself? Who can you talk to when you need support?

“I hate being called ‘fearless,’ because it’s false. I am anxious, and I am scared. What I do like is ‘brave.’”

What do you think Laurie meant?

Dolores Huerta

An activist who has organized and led many efforts to support the rights of farm workers, women, and other groups, using methods like strikes, boycotts, speeches, and solidarity across communities.



Dolores Huerta was born April 10, 1930 in New Mexico, US. As a young woman, she became a teacher in California. But she saw that many of her students did not have their basic needs met, like food and clothing. Their families worked in the fields and were treated unfairly. They worked long hours for little pay. So she decided to become an organizer to help farm workers like them. In 1962, Dolores started the National Farm Workers Association with fellow organizers Cesar Chavez and Gilbert Padilla. She worked long hours organizing meetings, leading marches, and talking to workers about their rights. In 1965, Filipino farm workers led by Larry Itliong began the Delano Grape Strike to demand better wages and more safety for workers. Dolores stood in strong solidarity with them. She helped bring Mexican and Filipino workers together so they could strike as one union: the United Farm Workers labor union. Dolores helped lead a nationwide grape boycott. She traveled across the country asking people not to buy grapes until farm workers were treated fairly. She also helped negotiate contracts with growers so workers could earn better pay and have safer working conditions. Later, she worked to pass laws to protect farm workers and support women's rights. She helped create the chant "**Sí, se puede**," which means "Yes, we can." Her brave actions helped many families and showed people how to join together to make change.

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."

What do you think Dolores meant?

Questions to Explore

- Why do people join unions?
- What does it mean to be 'in solidarity' with other groups or people? Why was it important for Dolores to stand in solidarity with Larry Itliong and Filipino workers during the Delano Grape Strike?
- What is a boycott? Do you know of any other boycotts in recent years? What was the purpose?

José “Cha Cha” Jiménez

A Puerto Rican activist in Chicago who founded the Young Lords Organization and led efforts to bring better housing, education, and health care to his community.



José “Cha Cha” Jiménez was born on August 8, 1948, in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and moved to Chicago when he was young. As Cha Cha grew up, he saw many poor Puerto Rican families being unfairly pushed out of their homes so that new buildings could be built for richer people to move in. As a teenager, he joined and led a street gang called the Young Lords and got involved in crime and drugs. After spending time in jail, seeing more unfair treatment inside, and reading books by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, Cha Cha was determined to help change things for the better. In the late 1960s, he turned the Young Lords Organization into a group that fought for justice and human rights. The Young Lords organized marches and protests to demand better housing, good schools, and health care for poor families and to protest against police brutality. They created a free health clinic, free child care center, and free breakfast program for children, not just to help the community but also to point out how the people in power were not providing for people’s basic needs. Their slogan was “Tengo Puerto Rico en mi corazón” (“I have Puerto Rico in my heart”). Under Cha Cha’s leadership, the Young Lords stood in solidarity with other civil rights groups, including the Black Panthers, as part of the Rainbow Coalition, and they worked together to fight poverty and unfair treatment. Cha Cha is remembered as a leader who helped his community organize, stand together with other racial and ethnic groups, and demand respect.

Questions to Explore

- What kind of world did Cha Cha imagine for his community and others?
- Why did Cha Cha and the Young Lords join the Rainbow Coalition? What was the reason for different racial groups to come together?
- What needs do you see in your community? Are those needs being met?

“We have to have our net wide, and try to unite with the many to defeat the few.”

What do you think Cha Cha meant?

Cristina Jiménez Moreta

An Ecuadorian American organizer and activist who has spoken out for the rights of immigrant communities and encouraged young immigrants to share their stories.



Photo: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Cristina Jiménez Moreta was born in Ecuador and came to the United States with her family at age 13. She grew up in New York City. Her family did not have legal immigration papers, so they often felt afraid and unsure about the future. As a young person, Cristina saw how hard and scary life could be for undocumented immigrant families. In 2008, Cristina helped start a group called United We Dream. This group brought together young immigrants, often called “Dreamers,” to share their stories and stand up for their rights. Cristina helped lead marches, rallies, and meetings. She trained young leaders across the country and helped them learn how to speak up and take action. She spoke to leaders in government and shared her own story to help people understand why change was needed. Along with United We Dream, she advocated for the creation of government programs like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which helps protect some young immigrants who came to the U.S. as children from being forced to leave the country. It also allows them to get driver’s licenses, jobs, and go to college. Cristina also helped organize campaigns to stop deportations and keep families together. She is now known as a brave leader who has helped many young people find their voices. She shows us that by working together, people can stand up for their rights, protect their communities, and build a more fair and welcoming country.

Questions to Explore

- Why do people leave their home countries and immigrate to other places?
- Why did Cristina and other young immigrants work so hard to advocate for the DACA program?
- Why is it important to listen to the stories of other people’s lives?

“For me, it is always more of a question of how I am using my voice and the platform and visibility that I have to bring more people from my community along.”

What do you think Cristina meant?

María Teresa Kumar

A Colombian American activist who works to protect voting rights and to encourage Latino/a Americans to make their voices heard by voting.



María Teresa Kumar was born in 1974 in Bogotá, Colombia. When she was four years old, she moved with her family to the United States and grew up in California. As an adult, María Teresa became a leader who helps people understand the power of voting. In 2004, she helped start a group called Voto Latino alongside actress Rosario Dawson. The group works to help young Latino/a people learn about voting and register (sign up) to vote. They have used music, social media, celebrities, and special events to reach young people, make voting easier to understand, and motivate them to participate. Under María Teresa's leadership, Voto Latino has helped register hundreds of thousands of new voters. During elections, the group has helped people find polling places and understand the voting process. She believes that when more people vote, the country becomes more fair. María Teresa often speaks on TV and at big events to remind people that their voices matter and to report and comment on important issues like gun control, reproductive rights, and detention of immigrant children. She has also spoken out against rules that make it harder for people to vote. Through her work, María Teresa Kumar has helped many people feel confident about voting and speaking up. She is known as a leader who works to make sure everyone has a chance to be heard and take part in shaping the future.

"I came to America as a child because my family deeply believed in America and her possibility. I still do, knowing that her possibility can't be realized until we provide real equity and opportunity for the most marginalized among us."

What do you think María meant?

Questions to Explore

- Why is voting important?
- Why might an organization called Voto Latino, led by Latino/a people, help more young Latinos and Latinas register to vote?
- Why might some people not vote? How would *you* encourage more people to vote?

Ralph Lazo

A Mexican American man who, as a teenager, voluntarily chose to live in an internment camp to show solidarity with his Japanese American friends during World War II.



Ralph Lazo was born November 3, 1924, and was raised in a racially diverse neighborhood in Los Angeles. In 1942, during World War II, the United States government ordered all Japanese Americans living on the West Coast to leave their homes and move to internment camps — prison-like places where they were forced to live under guard simply because of their heritage. This was based on racist beliefs that Japanese Americans would be disloyal to the US. Ralph was of Mexican and Irish descent, but he had many close friends who were Japanese American. Ralph thought their imprisonment was deeply unfair and wrong. To show his support for his friends and neighbors, he decided to go with them to the Manzanar internment camp in California. He was just 17 years old. Ralph lived at Manzanar for about two years, sharing the same difficult conditions as his Japanese American neighbors but doing his best to bring joy to their lives there. He is believed to be the only non-Japanese American to willingly enter and live in an internment camp. Eventually, Ralph was drafted into the Army and left the camp to serve in the war. After the war, he became a teacher and spent his life working with young people. He also supported those who pushed for the US government to pay reparations to Japanese Americans whose lives had been hurt by internment. Ralph is remembered today as a symbol of solidarity, courage, and standing up for what is right, even when it is hard.

Questions to Explore

- What is solidarity? How is Ralph's story an example of solidarity across racial groups?
- Do you think it would be hard to sacrifice your freedom to support someone else?
- What are reparations? Why was it important for the US government to apologize for the imprisonment of Japanese Americans?

"It was immoral. It was wrong and I couldn't accept it. These people hadn't done anything that I hadn't done, except to go to Japanese language school. They were Americans, just like I am."

What do you think Ralph meant?

Jamie Margolin

A Colombian American activist who organizes young people to push leaders to take action on climate change.



Jamie Margolin is a young climate activist who was born on December 10, 2001 in Seattle, Washington. Growing up, Jamie noticed scary changes happening in the environment, like terrible wildfires and extreme weather. When she learned about climate change, she felt worried about the future of the planet. As a teenager, she decided to take action. In 2017, when Jamie was just 15 years old, she helped start an organization called Zero Hour, a group led by young people that fights for action on climate change. In 2018, Jamie helped organize a big march in Washington, D.C., and in cities around the world, to demand that government leaders take the climate crisis seriously. Thousands of young people came together to speak up for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. She helped organize the event, gave speeches, and worked with other young leaders across the country. Jamie has spoken in front of the United Nations and testified before the United States Congress, asking leaders to stop ignoring the damage being done to the Earth. She has spoken openly about how climate change hurts communities of color and poorer communities the most. She believes that fighting for the environment and fighting for equal rights go hand in hand. Jamie wrote a book called *Youth to Power*, which is a guide to help young people become activists and make a difference in their communities. Now a young adult, she continues to inspire young activists everywhere to speak up and take action for the planet.

Questions to Explore

- Why is climate change an issue that many young people are passionate about?
- Why should governments listen to young people's voices?
- What questions do you have about being an activist as a young person?

“The argument is that there's no life, liberty, or happiness without clean air, clean water, and a livable planet.”

What do you think Jamie meant?

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

An American activist and musician of Indigenous Mexican heritage who has been using his voice to protect the environment since he was six years old.



Xiuhtezcatl (pronounced “shoo-TEZ-cot”) Martinez was born May 9, 2000 in Boulder, Colorado. He grew up between Colorado and Xochilmico, Mexico, in a family that cared deeply about protecting the Earth and connected him to the traditions of his Indigenous roots. At just six years old, Xiuhtezcatl gave his first public talk about protecting the planet. As he got older, he became known as a youth leader and spoke at large meetings around the world, including at the United Nations. As a teenager, Xiuhtezcatl was also part of a group of 21 young people who sued the U.S. government in a case called *Juliana v. United States*. In this case, they argued that the government had violated young people’s constitutional rights by failing to act on climate change. Xiuhtezcatl also helped lead marches and climate strikes where many young people gathered to call for change and has written books on climate change, social justice, and taking action. Xiuhtezcatl is also a musician, writing and performing music that shares messages about being connected to the Earth and honors his roots in his Indigenous community. He speaks and performs in three languages: Spanish, English, and Nahuatl. Through his activism and his art, Xiuhtezcatl has helped show that young people can raise their voices, lead movements, and work to protect the planet for everyone.

“That ‘greatness’ that I have achieved is something that everybody has the ability to create and be. Really, any one of us has this power. It should be normal to do this, to care and be involved and have your voice heard.”

What do you think Xiuhtezcatl meant?

Questions to Explore

- How does Xiuhtezcatl’s personal identity relate to his activism?
- Xiuhtezcatl and his group ultimately lost the *Juliana v. United States* case. Why was it still a good idea to try?
- How can we use music and art to help make change?

Sylvia Mendez

A Mexican and Puerto Rican American civil rights activist who was part of a court case that ended legal racial segregation in California schools.



Sylvia Mendez was born June 7, 1936, in Santa Ana, California. Her father, Gonzalo, was from Mexico and her mother, Felicitas, was from Puerto Rico. When she was just 8 years old, she and her brothers tried to go to a school near their home in Westminster. The school told them they could not attend and had to go to a different school because they were Mexican American. Sylvia's parents believed this was unfair. In 1945, they joined with other families, paid for a lawyer, and went to court. The case was called *Mendez v. Westminster*. In 1947, the court decided that separating children by race in public schools in California was wrong. This helped change the law and end legal school segregation in the state, years before similar changes happened across the country. As an adult, Sylvia became a nurse. Later, she began to travel and speak about her story so that the bravery of her family and others would not be forgotten. She wanted children to learn about fairness and standing up for their rights. In 2011, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work. Sylvia has spent her life teaching others that all children deserve equal treatment and a good education.

"If you stand up for something that's right, people will join you and people will help you because they know what is right and what is wrong."

What do you think Sylvia meant?

Questions to Explore

- How do you think Sylvia might have felt to be at the center of this case, or to finally join her new school?
- Why is it important to remember Sylvia's story?
- Are our schools still segregated by race today? What is the difference between *de jure* (legal) segregation and *de facto* (actual) segregation?

Sylvia Rivera

A Puerto Rican and Venezuelan American activist who worked to protect the rights and well-being of gay and transgender people in New York City.



Sylvia Rivera was born in 1951 in New York City. She had a very hard childhood. She became homeless when she was very young and had to take care of herself on the streets. As a teenager, she met other young people who were part of the LGBTQ+ community. She learned to stand up for herself and for others who were treated unfairly. She protested for gay rights with an organization called the Gay Liberation Front. Sylvia spoke up for the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community, including transgender people, people of color, homeless youth, and people in prison and jail. Sylvia worked with her friend, another activist named Marsha P. Johnson, to start a group called STAR, which means Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries.* They provided food and safe places to stay for homeless transgender youth in the city. Sylvia marched in pride parades and gave speeches demanding equal rights. Even up until the day she died, she kept fighting for laws that protect gay and transgender people from discrimination. Sylvia Rivera is remembered as a brave and outspoken leader who worked to make sure everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

*Our understanding changes over time, and "transvestite" is not a word that is considered respectful now. Now we usually use the more accurate word "transgender."

Questions to Explore

- What does it mean to be transgender?
- Why do you think Sylvia cared so much about helping LGBTQ+ people who were poor, homeless, or in jail?
- What were the different ways Sylvia showed her care? Why were each of these important?

"We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are. We have to show the world that we are numerous. There are many of us out there."

What do you think Sylvia meant?

Even more activists to look into

There are so many more important Latin activists, past and present, beyond those we have highlighted in these pages! Here are some more names to look into:

Joan Baez

Jovita Idar

Xiye Bastida

Sara Mora

Vickie Castro

Luisa Moreno

Linda Chavez-Thompson

Isa Noyola

Nalleli Cobo

Gilbert Padilla

Bert Corona

Carmen Perez

Sage Dolan-Sandrino

Monica Ramirez

Laura M. Esquivel

Anthony D. Romero

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan

David Sanchez

Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales

Reies López Tijerina

X González

Gilberto Gerena Valentín

Jessica Govea

Baldemar Velásquez

Isaias Hernandez

Who are the activists in your community?

Definitions of important words in activism:

- **Activist** - An activist is someone who uses their voice and takes action to help make the world more fair and right. Activists are like real-life superheroes! Just like how superheroes want to save the day, activists work with other people to stand up for what they believe in so that everyone has what they need and is treated fairly.
- **Injustice** - Injustice is when people are treated unfairly and things aren't right for everyone. Unfortunately, there are many unfair rules that exist that give unfair advantages to some people, but not others. In our world, some examples of injustice are: not having healthy food or clean water, not having a safe place to live, not being paid enough money to support yourself or your family, or being put in prison or sent away from the place you live. In the United States, some groups of people that have faced injustice are people with darker skin, people with less money, people who come from different countries or speak languages other than English, and people with disabilities. It can make people feel sad, frustrated, angry, or scared when they are not treated fairly. When we see injustice, we can stand up against it and use our voices to change the rules and make sure that everyone has what they need to live a safe, healthy, and happy life.
- **Justice** - Justice means making things fair and right for everyone. It's like when you're playing a game with a friend. It wouldn't be fair if your friend got lots of turns to play and you only got one turn. You each take turns so that everyone has a fair chance of winning. Justice means that everyone deserves to have a good life, no matter the color of their skin, where they're from, what language they speak, or how much money they have. If there are rules that are unfair for a group of people, we can move toward justice by changing those rules.
 - **Social justice** - Social justice means making sure that everyone is treated fairly and equitably in our communities and across the world. It's about making sure that everyone has the rights that they should have and nobody is left out or treated unfairly because of who they are.
 - **Racial justice** - Racial justice means making sure that people of all different races and ethnicities are treated fairly and equitably. It's about making sure that people are not disadvantaged or treated unfairly because of their skin color, the way they look, or where they come from.
- **Liberation** - Liberation means you are freed from unfair or unjust treatment. It can feel like you have the freedom to be who you are, like you can finally spread your wings and fly wherever you want and do what you want to do. It means being set free from unfairness and being able to be happy and safe.
- **Organizing** - Community organizing is when people come together to talk about how to solve problems together. They listen and get to know each other, share information, and plan for how to act together to make positive changes in their community. Organizers often work together to plan collective actions like protests, strikes, or marches, or providing aid to neighbors in need. Working together helps make sure that people in power (like elected officials or employers) actually listen to what people in the community want and need.
- **Protest** - A protest is a social justice action that a group of people can take by coming together to use their voices and show that they want change. During a protest, people are often walking together, holding signs, shouting, chanting, and yelling. You might hear music, singing, laughing, and even silence. Protests are a powerful way for a group of people to come together and use their voice to demand change in our communities and around the world.
- **Racial or ethnic groups** - A racial group comes from the idea of grouping people based on certain shared physical characteristics, such as skin color, hair texture and facial features. Racial groups are a made-up idea used to divide people and to treat different groups of people unfairly. Some Latino/a people identify racially as Latino/a or Hispanic, and others identify racially as Black, White, or Indigenous. Ethnic groups are similar to racial groups, but they're more specific about where your ancestors are from. For example, someone who is African American and someone who immigrated recently from Haiti might both identify as "Black." Similarly, people who identify racially as "White" might have Italian, Irish, German, Polish, or other ethnicities. We group many different ethnicities under the "Latino" label, including ethnicities from North America like Mexican/Chicano, from the Caribbean like Puerto Rican or Dominican; from Central America like Guatemalan or Salvadoran, or from South America like Colombian or Venezuelan. Many people come from multiple ethnic groups, and some people identify with multiple racial groups, too. It is ok to use both racial and ethnic group terms to identify yourself!

Definitions (continued)

- **Rights** - Rights are like promises that we make to each other to make sure everyone is treated fairly and kindly. They're like the special rules to make sure we all have what we need and to help us all live together happily. For example, all children around the world have the same rights, like the right to have your own thoughts and to share your thoughts freely, the right to be treated kindly by others, and the right to be safe and happy. Just like how you have rights, other people have rights too. It's important to respect each other's rights and make sure everyone is treated fairly and kindly.
 - **Civil rights** - Civil rights are like special rules to make sure everyone is treated fairly and kindly in their community and across the country. For example, civil rights include things like the right to go to school, the right to play in the park, the right to be friends with or get married to whoever you want, and the right to vote for the people who will make decisions in your community. These rules help make sure that everyone, no matter who they are, can live a happy and healthy life in the way that they want.
 - **Worker rights** - Worker rights are like special rules that make sure people are treated fairly while working their jobs. For example, worker rights might include things like the right to be paid fairly and on time, the right to be treated kindly and fairly by your boss, and the right to take breaks during long days of work and not be asked to do things that are unsafe or unhealthy.
 - **Housing rights** - Housing rights are like special rules that make sure everyone has a healthy and safe place to live. For example, housing rights can include things like the right to be charged a fair amount of money for your home, the right to be treated fairly when looking for a place to live, and the right to live in a safe place that has things like working lights, clean water, and no pests like rats or termites.
- **Sit-in** - A sit-in is a social justice action that a group of people can take by sitting in a certain place to show that they want something to change. For example, during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, sit-ins were used to protest the unfair treatment of African Americans in a nonviolent way. At the time, African Americans were not allowed to sit in certain places, like sit in certain seats in a restaurant. To show people that this was unfair, African American activists chose to sit in seats that were only for White people. The actions of brave activists who did the sit-ins along with lots of other social justice actions all helped make the civil rights movement a success. To this day, sit-ins are used by activists to tell people about injustices and unfairness and to fight for change.
- **Solidarity** - Being in solidarity means standing up together, across different groups like race and ethnicity, to make sure everyone is treated fairly. It's like what good friends do. When you're a good friend, you care about your friend and want to help them out when they need it. Activists want to help each other out because they know their voices are stronger if they work together.
- **Strike** - A labor strike is a social justice action when a group of workers decide not to go to work for some time because they want changes in their worker rights, like being paid fairly for their work. Labor strikes are often the last choice for workers because workers would rather talk with their bosses to come to an agreement together. But, sometimes the bosses don't listen to the workers. Strikes are a way for workers to get the attention of their bosses and to tell them the things they need in order to be treated fairly and to feel happy and safe at their jobs.
- **Union** - A labor union is a group of workers who join together (organize) to make their workplace better, safer, and fairer. By acting as a team, members negotiate with employers for higher pay, better benefits (like health insurance), and safer working conditions.
- **Walkout** - A walkout is a kind of social justice action similar to a strike. During a walkout, a group of people, such as students or workers, leaves their school or their workplace all at the same time. They might choose to stay outside for a period of time, or until school leaders or employers agree to make changes. It is a powerful but peaceful way to raise awareness, protest the way things currently are, and demand change.