HISPANIC & LATINE

HERITAGE MONTH

Name: _____

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HISPANIC & LATINE HERITAGE MONTH
September 15-October 15

Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month recognizes and honors the enduring contributions and importance of Hispanic and Latine Americans to the U.S. and celebrates the many heritages and cultures of Americans from or with ancestors from Mexico, the Caribbean, Spain, and Central and South America.

"Hispanic heritage holds an indelible place in the heart and soul of our Nation, and National Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us that the American identity is a fabric of diverse traditions and stories woven together. Since the beginning, our country has drawn strength and insights from Hispanic writers, scientists, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, and leaders in labor and government. Our culture has been enriched by the rhythms, art, literature, and creativity of Hispanic peoples. And our deepest values have been informed by the love of family and faith that is at the core of so many Hispanic communities. All of these contributions help us realize the promise of America for all Americans.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we reaffirm that diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths. We also acknowledge the Hispanic leaders who have stayed in the struggle for equal justice to ensure that everyone in this Nation can contribute their talents and have the opportunity to thrive."
- WhiteHouse.gov

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WHY HISPANIC & LATINE HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic and Latine are often used interchangeably, although they mean two different things.

Hispanic refers to people who speak Spanish and/or who are descended from Spanish-speaking populations.

Latine refers to people who are from a Latin American country or who are descended from people in a Latin American country. It includes all countries in Latin America, regardless of which language they speak. Latine is used as a gender-neutral alternative to Latino or Latina.

Latine Heritage Month seems a more inclusive term than Hispanic Heritage Month, which is the official US government designation.

While the official government designation is "National Hispanic Heritage Month", it honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latine Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries.

WHY SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15

September 15 is a date that holds special significance as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua all gained their independence on September 15.

Additionally, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence between September 16 to 21.

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HISTORY OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage month first began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson. It was expanded to cover a 30-day period by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and is now officially observed from September 15 to October 15.

September 15 is a date that holds special significance as it is the anniversary of independence celebrated by five countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), with 3 other countries celebrating independence from colonial rule over the next week (Mexico on the 16th, Chile on the 18th, and Belize on the 21st).

Another important day falls within this 30-day period, Día de la Raza, or Day of the Race. Celebrated on October 12 by many Spanish-speaking countries and communities instead of celebrating Colombus Day, it recognizes and honors the many countries and people that were conquered by Spain and other European explorers.

- Hispanicheritagemonth.gov

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Rita Moreno

- Award Winning Actress, Dancer, and Singer, with a Career Spanning Over 7 Decades
- Puerto Rican
- PEGOT Status (Winner of a Peabody, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award)
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004, Living Legend Award, and Numerous Other Life Achievement Awards

"The best advice I ever got when I was starting out: Never give up. And I never did."

"I really started to understand that everyone has a responsibility to others and to a community."

Rita Moreno was born on December 11, 1931 in Humacao, Puerto Rico. Given the nickname "Rosita," when she was young, Moreno's birth name was Rosa Dolores Alverío. She spent much of her childhood on a Puerto Rican farm until she was five years old. Her mother saved enough money for them to move to New York, but Moreno's little brother Francisco had to be left behind. When she arrived in New York City, Moreno began taking dance classes and quickly started working in the film industry.

She was first hired at age 11 to record Spanish language versions of American films. Shortly after this, Moreno made her Broadway debut at age 13 as "Angelina" in Skydrift. This role caught the attention of Hollywood filmmakers and she started receiving offers from Hollywood agents. Her first film was called So Young, So Bad, and was released in 1950. After this role, she signed a seven-year contract with Louis B. Mayer's MGM Studios where she adopted the stage name Rita Moreno.

For the next few years, Moreno was offered smaller roles in feature films. Her first role for MGM Studios was in the musical The Toast of New Orleans. Two years later, she landed a small role as the actress Zelda Zanders in Singin' in the Rain. Moreno was often typecast and remembers frequently being offered stereotypical "ethnic" or sexualized roles. Casting directors asked her to depict various ethnicities including; Hawaiian, Native American, Egyptian, Filipino, and a young Burmese woman named Tuptim in The King and I.

In 1961, Moreno was cast as Anita in the film adaptation of the musical West Side Story. For her portrayal, Moreno won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. Even after winning the Oscar, Moreno's agents still only submitted her for "exotic" and Latina roles. Moreno decided to leave the mistreatment of Hollywood and mostly acted in summer theater for the next seven years.

In the 1970s, Moreno decided to return to the entertainment industry with popular films such as The Night of the Following Day, Carnal Knowledge, and Marlowe. Upon her return, Moreno also starred as a main cast member of the PBS children's series The Electric Company from 1971-1977. Moreno won a Grammy in 1972 for "The Electric Company Album" based on her contributions to the show's soundtrack. A few years later, Moreno appeared in the musical The Ritz and subsequently earned the 1975 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress. During this time, she also appeared on various television shows as a guest.

In 1977, Moreno appeared on The Muppet Show and earned a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program. This award solidified her as the third person in history and the first Latina to win all four major entertainment awards: an Oscar, an Emmy, a Grammy, and a Tony. Shortly after, Moreno earned another Primetime Emmy for her role on the television show The Rockford Files. She also voiced the role of Carmen Sandiego on the Fox cartoon series Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? In the late 1990s, Moreno continued to star on television and played a psychologist in the HBO series OZ.

She won several ALMA Awards for her work. Moreno's talent and influence have also been recognized by the White House. She was invited to perform at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2004, and received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama in 2009.

More recently, she played Lydia on the Netflix series One Day at a Time for four seasons, ending in 2020. She also executive produced and starred in Steven Spielberg's 2020 remake of West Side Story. At 90 years old, Moreno has won countless lifetime achievement awards but does not show any signs of slowing down.

Source: www.womenshistory.org

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"It is through art that we will prevail and we will endure. It lives on after us and defines us as people."

"I'm a person who perseveres. You know, you fall down, you get up."

"I was determined that with perseverance and faith, at some point, someone would say, 'This girl has talent,' and would cast me in something meaningful."

-Rita Moreno

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Rita Moreno

Sonia Sotomayor

- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Since 2009
- 1st Latina Supreme Court Justice (and 1st Hispanic)
- 3rd Woman Supreme Court Justice
- Puerto Rican
- Attended Princeton and then Yale Law School

"Every day, you can make a difference by helping someone. Each time you do, you become part of something bigger than yourself."

"Our communities need all of us to do our part, each of us like strings of yarn in a blanket, knitted tightly together by what we do."

Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice, was born in Bronx, New York, on June 25, 1954. Born to Puerto Rican parents in New York City, Sonia Sotomayor grew up in a housing project in the Bronx. At age eight, she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, requiring daily insulin injections. Her father died the following year, leaving her mother to raise her and her brother alone.

Sotomayor has said that she turned to books to cope with the loss of her father. She credits her mother with encouraging her love of reading and her desire to excel in school. “My mother taught us that the key to success in America is a good education,” said Sotomayor during her Supreme Court confirmation hearing. She became a top student at Cardinal Spellman High School, in the Bronx and received a scholarship to attend Princeton University, in New Jersey.

She earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and receiving the Pyne Prize, the highest academic honor Princeton awards to an undergraduate. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

She served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney’s Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she served as an associate and then partner from 1984–1992.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served in that role from 1992–1998.

In 1997, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit where she served from 1998–2009.

President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role on August 8, 2009.

She is credited with saving Major League Baseball. As a federal district court judge in Manhattan, Sonia Sotomayor ruled on the baseball player salary cap on March 31, 1995. By restoring the terms of the previous labor agreement, she ended the 1994–1995 Major League Baseball strike by opening day.

She is passionate about inspiring children to create a better world and has written three children’s books, all available in English and Spanish. ***"Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You"*** celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have. Using her own experience as a child who was diagnosed with diabetes, she writes about children with all sorts of challenges--and looks at the special powers they have as well. ***“Just Help: How to Build a Better World”*** is inspired by her own family’s desire to help others and takes children on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world. ***"Turning Pages: My Life Story"*** shares her love of books and shows readers that the world is full of promise and possibility--all they need to do is turn the page.

Sources: www.biography.com, and www.oyez.org

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"...the world is one very large neighborhood and there is a lot we all need to do to make it healthy, safe, and clean for everyone."

"Remember that no one succeeds alone. Never walk alone in your future paths."

"It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand."

-Sonia Sotomayor

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SONIA SOTOMAYOR

Dolores Huerta

- Labor Leader, Civil Rights Activist, and Lifelong Advocate for Social Justice and Equality
- Co-Founder of United Farm Workers Association
- 1st Latina Inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, and Numerous Other Lifetime Achievement Awards

"I want students to get a sense of their own empowerment and the things that they can do to make the world a better place."

Dolores Huerta is one of the most influential labor activists of the 20th century and a leader of the Chicano civil rights movement. Born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico, Huerta was the second of three children of Alicia and Juan Fernandez, a farm worker and miner. Her parents divorced when she was three years old, and her mother moved to Stockton, California with her children. Huerta's grandfather helped raise Huerta and her two brothers while her mother juggled jobs as a waitress and cannery worker until she could buy a small hotel and restaurant.

Alicia's community activism and compassionate treatment of workers greatly influenced her daughter. Discrimination also helped shape Huerta. A schoolteacher, prejudiced against Hispanics, accused Huerta of cheating because her papers were too well-written. In 1945 at the end of World War II, white men brutally beat her brother for wearing a Zoot-Suit, a popular Latino fashion.

Huerta received an associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's Delta College. She married Ralph Head while a student and had two daughters, though the couple soon divorced. She subsequently married fellow activist Ventura Huerta with whom she had five children, though that marriage also did not last. Huerta briefly taught school in the 1950s, but seeing so many hungry farm children coming to school, she thought she could do more to help them by organizing farm workers.

In 1955 Huerta began her career as an activist when she co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO), which led voter registration drives and fought for economic improvements for Hispanics. She also founded the Agricultural Workers Association. Through a CSO associate, Huerta met activist César Chávez. In 1962, Huerta and Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the predecessor of the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW). Huerta served as UFW vice president until 1999.

Despite ethnic and gender bias, Huerta helped organize the 1965 Delano strike of 5,000 grape workers and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that followed. Throughout her work with the UFW, Huerta organized workers, negotiated contracts, advocated for safer working conditions including the elimination of harmful pesticides. Huerta also fought for unemployment and healthcare benefits for agricultural workers. She was the driving force behind the nationwide table grape boycotts in the late 1960s that led to a successful union contract by 1970.

In 1973, Huerta led another consumer boycott of grapes that resulted in the ground-breaking California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which allowed farm workers to form unions and bargain for better wages and conditions. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Huerta worked as a lobbyist to improve workers' legislative representation. During the 1990s and 2000s, she worked to elect more Latinos and women to political office and championed women's issues.

The recipient of many honors, Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in 1998 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. As of 2015, she was a board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation, the Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, and the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.
Source: WomensHistory.org

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“If people don't vote, everything stays the same.”

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

"We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live, not just to acquire things. That is what we are put on earth for."

-Dolores Huerta

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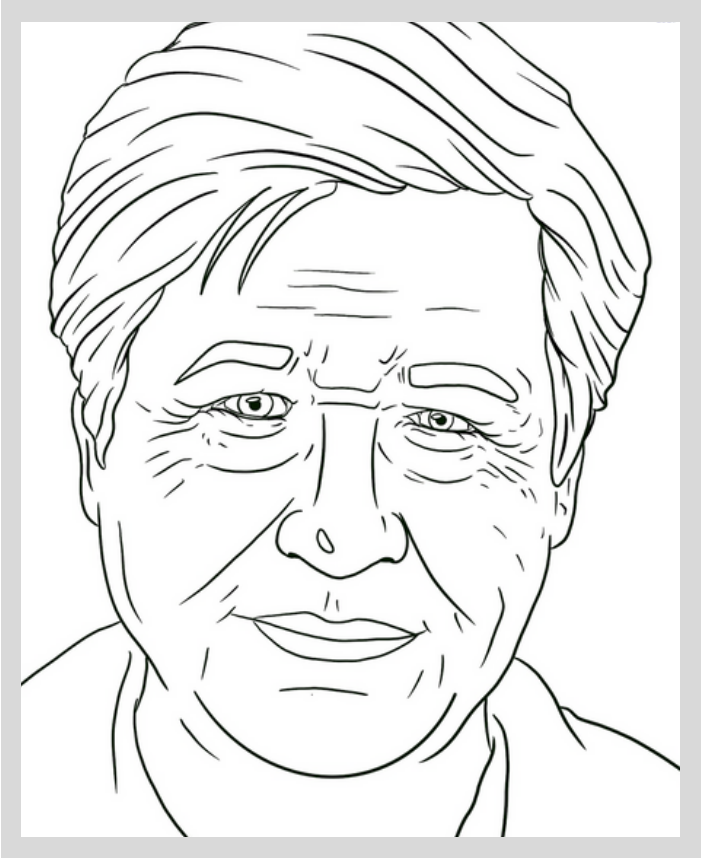
Dolores Huerta

César Chávez



- Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist
- Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers Association
- Mexican American
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Posthumously in 1994, Received Numerous Other Awards and Accolades

"Being of service is not enough. You must become a servant of the people."

"Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves - and be free."

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César grew up on a farm in Yuma, Arizona with his two brothers and two sisters. His family owned a farm and a local grocery store. and lived in an adobe home built by his grandfather. César had a happy childhood surrounded with family and relatives. When César was around eleven years old, the family experienced hard times from the Great Depression and his father lost their farm. Not knowing what to do, César's father packed up all they owned and moved to California to find work. The family became migrant workers, moving from farm to farm looking for work in the fields. Everyone had to work, including the children on weekends and holidays. The days were long and the work was hard and the family barely had enough to eat. Moving so often meant not being able to attend the same school for long. Teachers were tough on him when he attended and he was ridiculed for his poverty, and for not speaking English. After graduating from the eighth grade, César stopped attending school and became a full-time farm laborer. The working conditions in the fields were terrible. The farmers seldom treated them like people, forcing them to work long hours with no breaks, without bathrooms and no clean water to drink. Those who complained were fired.

When César was nineteen he joined the navy, and was honorably discharged in 1946. He married his sweetheart Helen Fabela in 1948. He worked in the fields for the next few years until he got a job at the Community Service Organization (CSO). At the CSO Cesar worked for the civil rights of Latinos for ten years helping register voters and work for equal rights. César read a lot and was influenced by a number of leaders including Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He wanted to help the migrant field workers of California and thought he could do it in a peaceful manner.

In 1962, César quit his job in the CSO to start a union of migrant farm workers. He formed the National Farm Workers Association with Dolores Huerta, which later became the United Farm Workers Association. There were only a few members at first, mostly family members, so César went back to working in the fields where he could recruit workers to join the union. Many didn't believe the union could work as they had tried it before and they were scared they would lose their jobs or get beat up for joining. César didn't give up and slowly but surely the union started to get more members. César called the movement for better working conditions "La Causa", or The Cause.

One of César's first major actions was to organize the Delano Grape Strike, protesting for higher wages and safer working conditions for farm workers. César and sixty-seven workers decided to march to the state capital in Sacramento to gain support for their cause. It took them several weeks to march the 340 miles and on the way many people joined them. When they finally arrived in Sacramento there were thousands of workers there to protest. In the end, the grape farmers agreed to many of the worker's conditions and signed a contract with the union.

César and the union continued to work for the cause of the worker. Over the next several decades the union would grow and continue to fight for the rights and working conditions of the migrant farmer. In order to bring attention to his cause César fasted, one time for 36 days. Many celebrities also fasted with him. César died in his sleep on April 23, 1993. Over 50,000 people attended his funeral service. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994.

Sources: Ducksters.com, HistoryforKids.net

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"Yes, it can be done".

“We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure.“

"If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him... the people who give you their food give you their heart."

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community."

“True wealth is not measured in money or status or power. It is measured in the legacy we leave behind for those we love and those we inspire.”
-César Chávez

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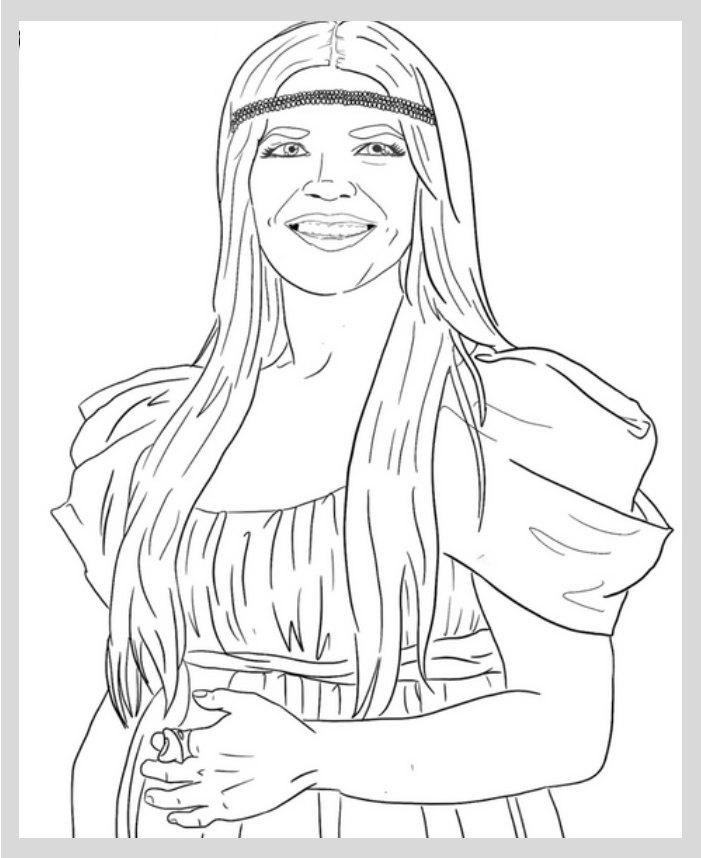
CESAR CHAVEZ

America Ferrera



- Award-Winning Actress and Political Activist
- Honduran American with Lenca Ancestry
- 1st Latina Woman to Win the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series
- Named One of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2007 by Time

"Take your time and your talent and figure out what you have to contribute to this world."

Ferrera, the youngest of six children, was born in Los Angeles, California. Her parents, América Griselda Ayes and Carlos Gregorio Ferrera, were originally from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and immigrated to the United States in the mid-1970s. Her mother worked as the director of the housekeeping staff for one of the Hilton Hotels, and stressed the importance of higher education. When she was 7, her parents divorced and her father returned to Honduras.

Ferrera was raised in the Woodland Hills section of Los Angeles. From the age of seven she knew she wanted to be a performer. Her first play was Romeo and Juliet, and although only in the third grade, she went to the junior high school and auditioned and got the role of the Apothecary. She acted in school plays and community theatre in Los Angeles throughout her youth, though with little help from her mother, who insisted that she pursue other interests because she was concerned her daughter would not be treated fairly. She took acting lessons at the age of 15 and was able to pay for them by waiting tables and babysitting.

She entered the University of Southern California (USC) on a presidential scholarship, double majoring in theatre and international relations. She dropped out to focus on her acting career, but completed her bachelor's degree in 2013. Ferrera disliked her first name as a child and went by her middle name, "Georgine", until she began acting professionally.

She made her feature film debut in 2002 with the comedy-drama Real Women Have Curves, winning praise for her performance. Ferrera garnered modest success early in her career with roles in films like the Disney original Gotta Kick It Up! (2002) and the drama The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005); the latter earned her the Imagen Award Best Actress and her first nomination at the ALMA Awards. She ventured into television roles and landed the leading part on the ABC comedy-drama Ugly Betty (2006–2010). Ferrera garnered critical acclaim for playing the protagonist of the series, Betty Suarez, and won the Best Actress Awards at various award ceremonies in 2007 including the Golden Globe Awards, the Screen Actors Guild Awards, and the Primetime Emmy Award, the first for a Latin woman in the category. Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2007.

Ferrera's other notable film roles include the drama The Dry Land (2010), the romantic comedy Our Family Wedding (2010), and the crime drama End of Watch (2012). She provided the voice of Astrid Hofferson in the How to Train Your Dragon franchise. She also co-produced and starred as Amy Sosa in the NBC comedy series Superstore (2015–2020).

In the 2008 presidential primaries she worked alongside Chelsea Clinton and Amber Tamblyn, leading the Hillblazers organization in support of Hillary Clinton's campaign. Ferrera attended both the 2012 and 2016 Democratic National Convention and addressed the delegates as a speaker in the 2016 convention. Ferrera has been active in getting Latinos in the United Sates to vote, through her involvement with the organization Voto Latino and by appearing on various news programs. Ferrera works with Eva Longoria to co-host She Se Puede, a digital lifestyle platform which encourages voting within the Latina community. Ferrera and Longoria also held a textbanking event with VoteRiders to educate voters about Georgia's strict Voter ID laws ahead of the Georgia Senate runoff. Ferrera was the opening speaker for the Women's March on Washington on January 21, 2017 and spoke at the Families Belong Together protest on June 30, 2018.
Sources: Kids.kiddle.co

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"I feel like my convictions and my passions come from my very personal experience and the life that I've led. I feel the very natural tendency to stand up for and use my voice for the things that I know about and the things that I feel passionate about."

"Today I bring my own warrior ancestors with me, the indigenous Lenca tribe of Honduras."

-America Ferrera

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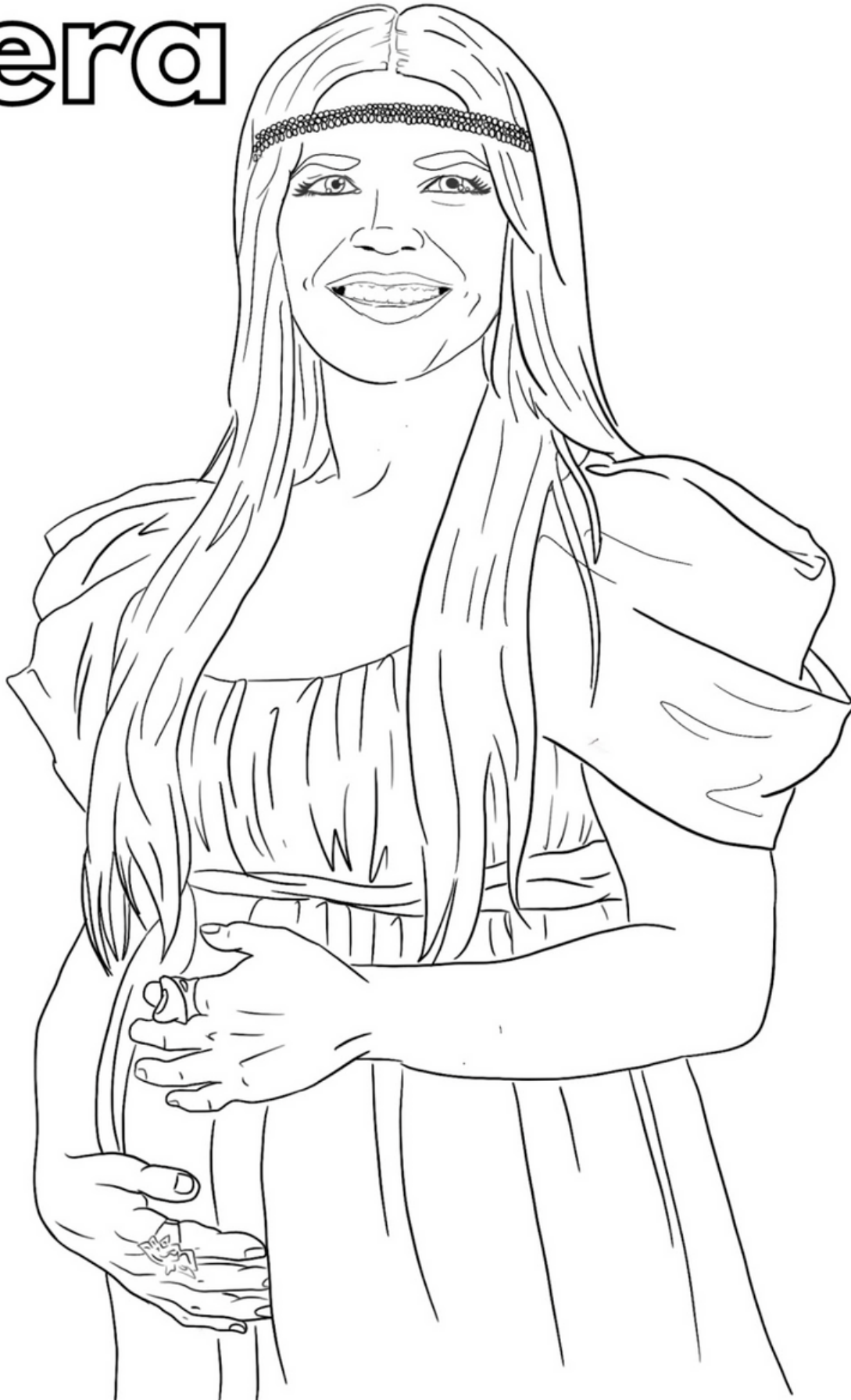
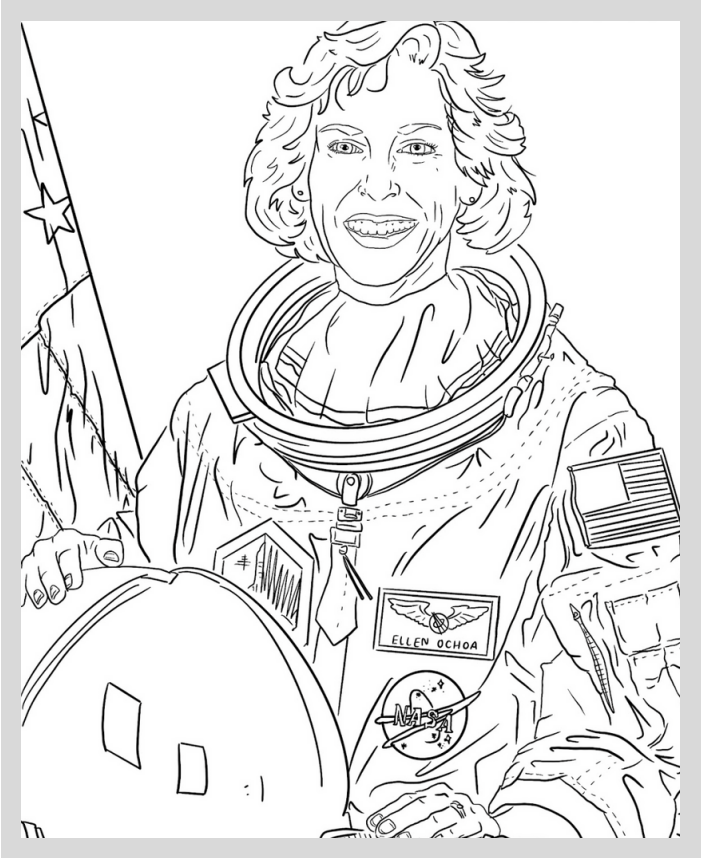
"Today I bring my own warrior ancestors with me, the indigenous Lenca tribe of Honduras."

- America Ferrera

America Ferrera



Dr. Ellen Ochoa



- **Astronaut, Research Engineer, Inventor, Pilot, and Classical Flutist**
- **1st Latina Astronaut, and 1st Latina in Space**
- **Flown in Space Four Times, Logging Nearly 1,000 Hours in Orbit**
- **Served as Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center (1st Hispanic Director and 2nd Female Director)**

"Don't be afraid to reach for the stars."

"A hallmark of the Latino community is to help one another, if students are interested in a way to give back and help their communities, becoming a teacher is probably one of the very best ways of doing that."

Dr. Ellen Ochoa, was the first Hispanic woman astronaut and first Hispanic director of the Johnson Space Center, and its second female director. She was also a scientist and an inventor. She helped create several systems that use lasers to gather and process information from images.

Ellen Ochoa was born on May 10, 1958, in Los Angeles, California. She grew up in La Mesa, a town near San Diego. She grew up playing the flute and thought that she would end up pursuing a music major in college. But, Ellen's friends from her high school calculus class were all majoring in science and engineering fields which made her consider taking up a physics major for fun.

In college, she studied physics and continued her music studies as well because of her love of music and the flute. She graduated from San Diego State University in 1980. She continued both her music and her science studies after college. Ochoa earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Stanford University in electrical engineering and played with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra.

In graduate school, Ochoa concentrated on optics. Optics is the study of how light behaves. She continued that work at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. She helped create optical systems for recognizing objects.

Ochoa joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1988 as a research engineer at Ames Research Center and moved to Johnson Space Center in 1990 when she was selected to be part of NASA's astronaut program in 1990.

Ochoa became an astronaut in 1991. She flew on her first mission, on the space shuttle Discovery, two years later. By 2002 she had flown on four shuttle flights logging nearly 1,000 hours in orbit. On the shuttle, she oversaw experiments and operated a robotic arm to move other astronauts and equipment around.

She is a co-inventor on three patents for optical systems and the author of several technical papers.

After her career as an astronaut, Ochoa continued to work for science agencies. She served as director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for several years. Later she was the chair of the National Science Board. She often spoke to groups of students of all ages about her experiences as an astronaut.

Ochoa has been recognized with NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award for senior executives in the federal government. She has received many other awards and is especially honored to have six schools named after her. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), serves on several boards, and chairs the Nomination Evaluation Committee for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

Sources: NASA.gov and Kids.britannica.com

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"I was 11 when we landed on the moon, Apollo Eleven. And, of course, everybody in the whole world was watching that. But I can tell you, at that time, nobody ever asked a girl, 'Is that something you want to grow up and do?'"

"I feel very privileged. But what I really hope for young people is that they find a career they are passionate about, something that's challenging and worthwhile."

-Dr. Ellen Ochoa

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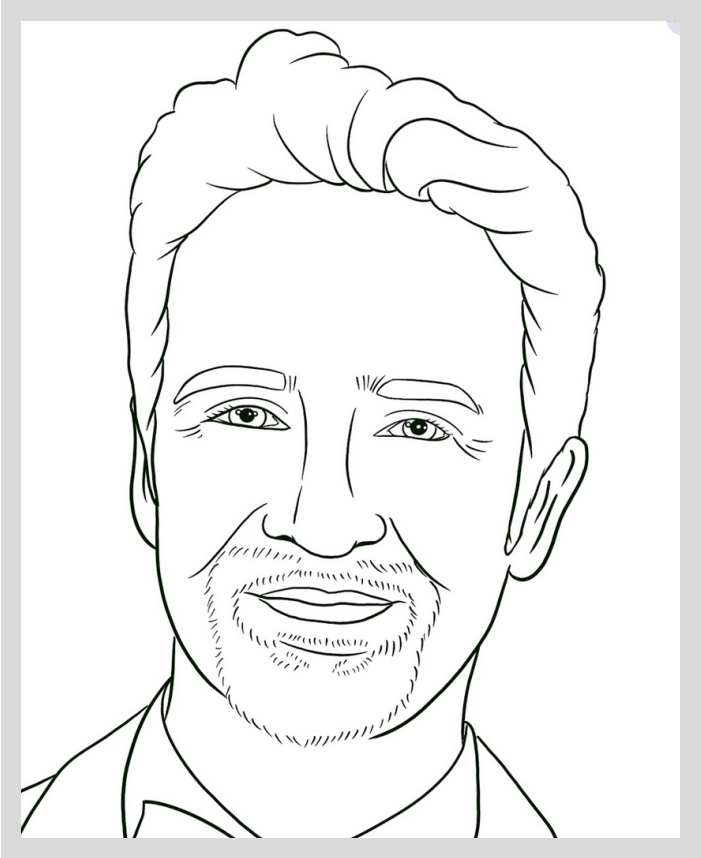
ELLEN OCHOA

Lin-Manuel Miranda



- **Award-Winning Composer, Lyricist, Playwright, Filmmaker, Producer, Actor, Rapper, Singer, and Community Activist / Philanthropist**

- **Winner of a Pulitzer Prize, Three Grammys, Three Tony Awards, Two Emmys, and Many More**

- **Best Known for Creating and Starring in the Broadway Musicals "Hamilton" and "In The Heights", and for Composing the Soundtrack of "Encanto"**

"Every day has the potential to be the greatest day of your life."

Lin-Manuel Miranda, a Pulitzer Prize, Grammy, Emmy, Tony Award-winning composer, lyricist, and actor, Lin-Manuel is the creator and original star of Broadway's Hamilton and In the Heights. Lin-Manuel Miranda was born on January 16, 1980, in New York City. His parents were born in Puerto Rico. The family often returned to the island in summer. Miranda attended New York City's Hunter College Elementary School and Hunter College High School. He performed in many of his school's plays and musicals. He spoke English at school and Spanish at home with his family.

Miranda went on to study theater and film at Wesleyan University. He began writing his first musical during his second year there. It was titled In The Heights. The show was set in Washington Heights. It's the Hispanic neighborhood where Miranda grew up. Miranda graduated from college in 2002. He worked part-time jobs and continued writing the show.

In The Heights made its Broadway debut in 2008. It was a success and won four Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Original Score. Miranda was the show's creator and star.
In 2008, Miranda read the biography Alexander Hamilton, by Ron Chernow. The book inspired him and Miranda began to think about what Hamilton's story would look like as a musical. For six years, he studied the life of the Founding Father. "I had to learn a lot about American history that I didn't know," he told TIME for Kids. "You have to put yourself not only in their shoes, but in their skin, and in their heart, to understand how they saw the world." Miranda turned his vision into a musical called Hamilton.

Hamilton opened off-Broadway in 2015 at the Public Theater, in New York. The sold-out show won more than 20 awards. It opened on Broadway in August 2015 and became a huge hit. Miranda made it a point to focus on diversity in the show. He chose nonwhite actors to play the white historical figures. The show's music was also unique. It had a mix of rap, hip-hop, pop, and slow songs. In 2016, Hamilton was awarded the respected Pulitzer Prize for Drama. His play also received a record 16 Tony Award nominations and took home 11 trophies.

Miranda has worked hard to help the less-fortunate. In 2016, he teamed up with a charity group and asked people to donate $10 or more for a chance to win tickets to see his last performance in Hamilton. The effort raised $2 million. Most of the money was donated to help Hispanic children and families around the country. He has been an active supporter of relief efforts in Puerto Rico post-Hurricane Maria.

After stepping off the Hamilton stage in 2016, Miranda composed the music for Disney's animated movie Moana. He was nominated for his first Academy Award for the song "How Far I'll Go." Following Hamilton and Moana, Miranda was cast as Jack, the lamplighter, in the film Mary Poppins Returns (2018). Miranda composed the music for Disney's 2021 animated movie Encanto, which won a Billboard Music Award for the Best Soundtrack.

He is the recipient of the 2015 MacArthur Foundation Award and 2018 Kennedy Center Honors. He lives with his family in NYC. Miranda's advice for kids who want to get involved in performing arts is to work on your weakest skill. "If you're a good singer, go take dance lessons. If you're a good dancer, take singing lessons," he says. "This way, when you go for an audition, they say 'This person can do everything.'"

Sources: LinManuel.com and Timeforkids.com

THE UNDAUNTED FOUNDATION

“I wish you clarity today. Clarity of thought, clarity of expression, a direct line between what you feel and what to do about it.”

"Give your time, give your heart, give your service, give someone something you made. It feels incredible."

"You cannot let all the world's tragedies into your heart. You'll drown. But the ones you do let in should count. Let them manifest action."

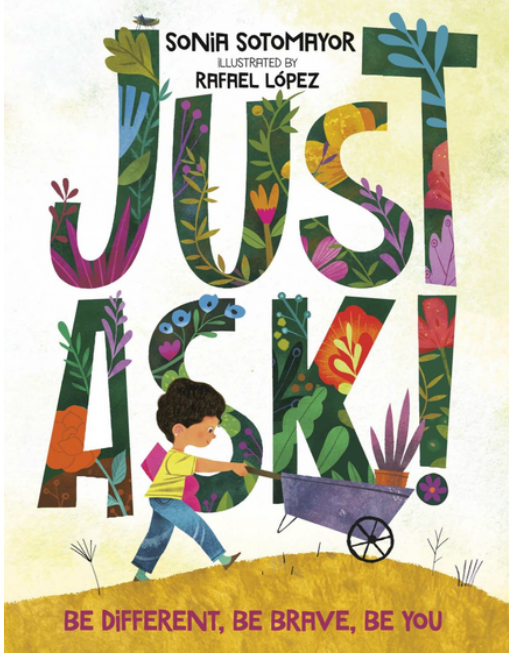
-Lin-Manuel Miranda

THE UNDAUNTED FOUNDATION

LIN-MANUEL
MIRANDA

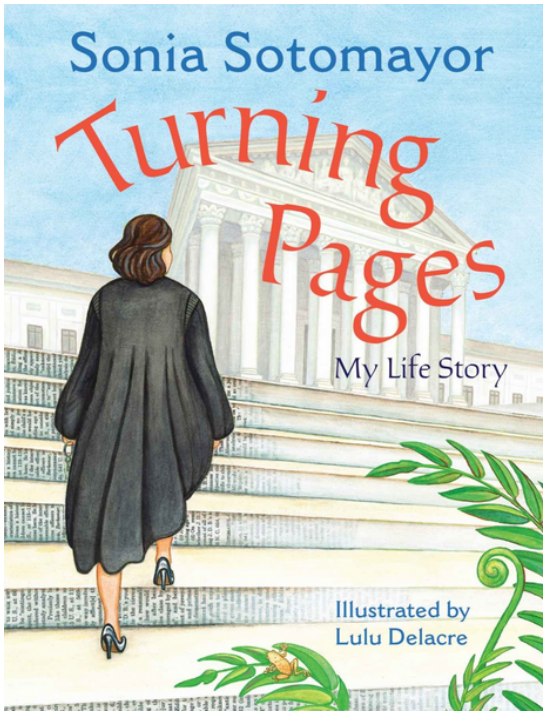
Book Recommendations

**"Just Help!
How to Build a
Better World"
by Sonia Sotomayor**



***"Just Ask! Be
Different, Be Brave,
Be You
by Sonia Sotomayor***

***"Turning Pages
My Life Story"
by Sonia Sotomayor***



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Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month Quiz

Name:

1. How many decades has Rita Moreno been singing, dancing, and acting?

_____

2. Who wrote the soundtrack for Encanto?

_____

3. Who said "If people don't vote, everything stays the same."?

_____

4. Who became the 1st Latina Supreme Court Justice?

_____

5. Who has flown in space four times?

_____

Bonus: Which two people founded the United Farm Workers Association together?

_____

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