

Name _____

Date _____

Larry Itliong - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. A migrant worker is someone who moves from place to place in search of employment, often moving depending on the season. In the early 20th century, labor conditions for migrant workers, many of them immigrants, were dangerous and inhumane. Wages were low, hours were long, and breaks were nonexistent. To make things worse, the work itself was often dangerous. These unsafe working conditions killed or seriously injured many migrant workers. Because many of the workers were not US citizens, bosses could threaten them with deportation if they asked for better treatment.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. A migrant worker moves from place to place looking for work.
- C. Migrant workers should have received better pay and safer working conditions.

**B.**

In the early 1900s, conditions for migrant workers were dangerous and inhumane.

This main idea is supported by details about low wages, long hours, unsafe working conditions, and nonexistent breaks.

- D. Many migrant workers were not US citizens.

2. Larry Itliong immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1913. He worked difficult jobs on farms and in canning factories. He lost three of his fingers in an accident at a cannery in Alaska, which moved him to action. In 1930, Itliong founded the Alaska Cannery Workers Union, a labor union that advocated for an eight-hour workday and paid overtime. He learned to speak several Filipino dialects, as well as English, Japanese, Cantonese, and Spanish, so that he could communicate with other migrant workers and organize alongside them. After serving in World War II, Itliong continued the fight for workers' rights. He founded two more labor unions and organized strikes to protest low wages and poor working conditions for workers in many migrant industries. Famously, he was a key figure, alongside Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, in the Delano grape strike, which lasted for five years.

Which of the following was an important part of how Itliong successfully organized labor unions with his fellow migrant workers?

- A. Losing three fingers in an accident at a cannery and quitting to recover from the injury
- B. Serving in the military in World War II and using that experience to inspire his labor activism
- C. Communicating with as many of his fellow workers as possible by learning their language
- D. Negotiating higher salaries and more humane working conditions with the factory owners



- C. Communicating with as many of his fellow workers as possible by learning their language

Itliong saw that there was more power in collective, or group, organizing. Realizing this, he became fluent in the many languages his fellow immigrant workers spoke, empowering all to demand better working conditions.

3. Today, things like eight-hour work days, fair wages, healthcare, and access to toilets and clean drinking water seem like common sense to provide to workers. But this was not the reality for migrant workers in the early 20th century. The Delano grape strike may have lasted five long years, but the struggle paid off when a new contract ensured better conditions for farm workers. Larry Itliong recognized that as an individual he could do little to change conditions on his own. By spreading his ideas to his fellow laborers and enlisting the help of other influential labor activists, he found power in collective, or group, action.

Based on this passage, with which of these statements would Larry Itliong likely agree?

- A. Farm and factory owners have to limit wages in order to keep their businesses running.
- C. Organizing large groups of people is too complicated to be successful.

- B. Only a few people deserve credit for affecting change in workers' rights.



D.

By working together, groups of people can achieve more than individuals can.

According to the text, "Larry Itliong recognized that as an individual he could do little to change conditions on his own," but "he found power in collective, or group, action."