

Worksheets

“Las condiciones (Our Demands)” song lyrics

Written and performed by Suni Paz

While you listen to this song, circle or underline some of the Chicana/o activists’ “demands” during the time of the Chicano movement.

Y tanto que nos preguntan
Y ¿Qué estamos demandando?
Pues si es que quieres saberlo
Mejor escucha este canto...
Somos Chicanos, señores
Y vivimos en el barrio
Queremos organizarnos
Para poder ayudarnos

Se cansaron mis hermanos
De que les dieran la historia
De América y California
Sin que entraran mexicanos
Queremos nuestro lenguaje
Enseñado por quien sepa
Y queremos profesores
Que nos hablen del Azteca

Keep circling or underlining places in the lyrics that indicate some of the changes Mexican Americans were seeking, but see if you can also find the words in Spanish.

Que nos digan de los mayas
Del Rey Tigre en Nueva México
De las huelgas y las penas
En que esta Sociedad nos deja
Los que sabemos muy bien
De la grandeza de México
Queremos que se nos trate
Con dignidad y con respeto

My brothers are tired
Of being fed the history
Of America and California
And Mexicans never come into it
We want our language
Taught by our teachers
And we want professors
Who can talk about the Aztecs

No queremos olvidarnos
Del idioma de la raza
Diecinueve países lo hablan
Está bien hablarlo en casa
No queremos el racismo
Rechazamos la opresión
En que tratan de encerrarnos
Que es peor que la prisión

About the Mayans,
About the Tiger King of New Mexico
About the strikes and the troubles
This society has put on us
Those of us who know very well
About the greatness of Mexico
We want to be treated
With the proper dignity and respect

Por eso es que les decimos
A todos nuestros hermanos:
Unidos conseguiremos
Todo lo que demandamos
Y ahora si que ya saben
Que es que estamos demandando
¿Y qué tal si nos ayudan
A conseguir lo del canto?

We will not be made to forget
The language of our people
If nineteen countries use it
It’s good enough for here at home
We refuse your racism
We reject your oppression
With which you try to enclose us
That’s worse than any prison

They ask so many questions
About what are your demands?
So, if you’d really like to know
Listen to my song...
We are Chicanos, sirs
And we live in *el barrio* (the ‘hood)
We want to organize ourselves
In order to help ourselves

Because of all of this we say
To all our brothers and sisters:
That when we are united
We will win our demands
And now you too know
What we are demanding
So how about helping us
To achieve what we are singing about?