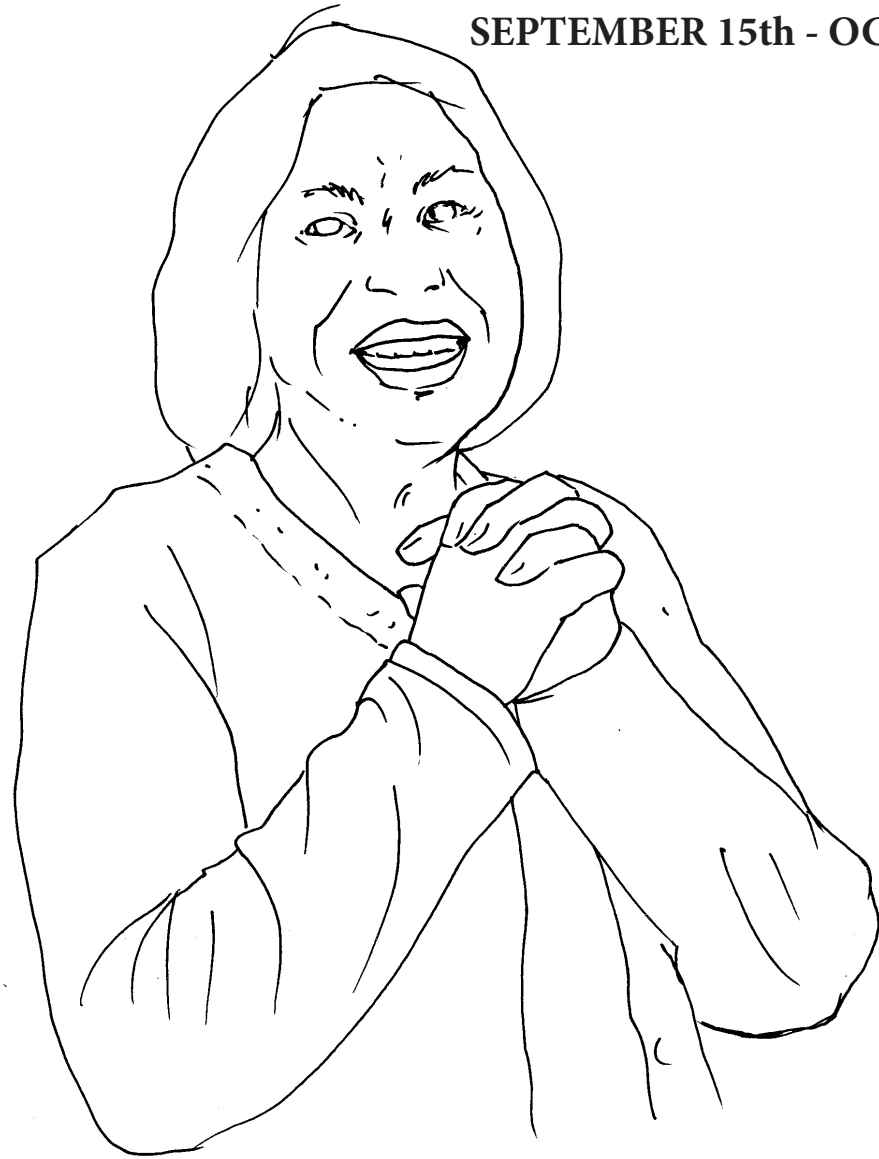


OBSERVANCE

SEPTEMBER 15th - OCTOBER 15th



Sylvia Mendez is an American civil rights activist of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage. She played an instrumental role in the *Mendez v. Westminster* case, the landmark desegregation case of 1946.

The case successfully ended segregation in California and paved the way for integration and the American civil rights movement.



Every day, 8-year-old **Sylvia Mendez** and her friends got off the school bus in front of 17th Street Elementary School in Westminster, California. The large, clean building had plenty of room for its students and a playground.

Yet they attended Hoover Elementary. A small, run-down school on a dirt lot. The curriculum prepped boys for labor work and taught girls housekeeping duties.

When Mendez and her family tried to register at the 17th Street school they were turned away. However, their fairer-skinned cousins with a French last name were accepted.

Gonzalo Mendez, Sylvia's father, along with four other families filed a lawsuit against the Orange County School District. They wanted their kids to have the same opportunities as white kids. The case would become known as *Mendez v. Westminster*.

On February 14, 1946, less than a year after filing, Judge Paul J. McCormick ruled in favor of the Mendez family and their co-plaintiffs. The case would go on to leave a lasting legacy on the prospect of racial equality in America.

ALPHABETIZE THE HISPANIC COUNTRIES

Put the names of these countries in alphabetical order

- A. Chile
- B. Ecuador
- C. Peru
- D. Costa Rica
- E. Paraguay
- F. Guatemala
- G. Bolivia
- H. Honduras
- I. Venezuela
- J. Belize
- K. Columbia
- L. Uruguay
- M. Panama
- N. Argentina
- O. Nicaragua
- P. Mexico
- Q. Dominican Republic
- R. Puerto Rico
- S. Spain
- T. Haiti

