



Student Name:  
Class Period:  
Date:

## Meet the Originals

*Texas Originals* is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery. Then, answer questions about it.

### Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery 1908–1980

Frederick Bean Avery's middle name honored his ancestor, notorious "Judge" Roy Bean. His nickname, "Tex," was bestowed by fellow animators in Hollywood, where Avery helped create the modern art of cartooning.

Born in Taylor, Texas, in 1908, Avery graduated from North Dallas High School and followed his love of cartoons to California. After learning the trade in various studios, Avery landed at Termite Terrace, the dilapidated office of Warner Brothers Cartoons. There, Avery and his team pioneered a style of animation that defied convention.

Avery's characters departed sharply from the romantic realism of Walt Disney's popular films. They spoke directly to the audience, offered sarcastic asides, and made irreverence an art form. Avery asked his team, "What do you think the audience would least expect?" The resulting gags defined Looney Toons, making a star of the character Porky Pig and leading to the 1940 creation of the world's most famous rabbit: Bugs Bunny. Avery gifted the wisecracking Bugs with the catchphrase "What's up, Doc?"—a greeting that had been popular at his high school.

After Warner Brothers, Avery created classic characters for MGM and later animated TV commercials. He died in 1980, but his influence endures today. Avery was, as one film historian put it, "the King of Cartoons: a free-wheeling anarchist whose distinctive sense of humor changed the face of U.S. animation forever."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery move to California?
2. Where does Bugs Bunny's famous greeting "What's up, Doc?" originate?

**Going Further:** Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Making Inferences.** In the context of the episode, what does the phrase "a free-wheeling anarchist" mean?