



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 Roy Bedichek. Then, answer questions about it.

### Roy Bedichek 1878–1959

According to J. Frank Dobie, the writer and naturalist Roy Bedichek “liked to cook outdoors, eat outdoors, sleep outdoors, look and listen outdoors, [and] be at one . . . with the first bob-whiting at dawn.”

Bedichek was born in 1878 and raised on a farm south of Waco, where he absorbed the sights, sounds, and rhythms of the blackland prairie.

He spent the majority of his professional career as director of the state’s University Interscholastic League, which promotes academic and athletic competition in Texas public schools.

But Bedichek is best remembered for the books he wrote late in life. In 1946, at the age of sixty-eight, he spent nearly a year in seclusion at Friday Mountain Ranch, writing *Adventures with a Texas Naturalist*.

A classic of American nature writing, Bedichek’s book—like Thoreau’s *Walden*—mixes natural history with moral and philosophical speculation. The prose is crisp, unpretentious, and engaging. Bedichek views the world and the cosmos from his particular vantage point on the Edwards Plateau. In 1947, Dobie described the book as perhaps “the wisest and most civilized book that Texas has yet produced.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Roy Bedichek. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Roy Bedichek grow up?
2. Describe Bedichek’s writing in his book *Adventures with a Texas Naturalist*.

**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.** How might Bedichek’s upbringing and the changes he saw around him have affected the way he saw nature?