



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 Henry Allen Bullock. Then, answer questions about it.

Henry Allen Bullock 1906–1973

Henry Allen Bullock devoted his life to advancing African American education in Texas—and made history in the process. Bullock was born in North Carolina in 1906. He earned a doctorate in sociology at the University of Michigan. In 1930, he moved to Texas for an academic career spent largely at Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University.

In 1967, Bullock published a history of African American education in the South. The book earned him the Bancroft Prize, one of the highest honors in the field of U.S. history. Bullock argued that, ironically, segregated schools sowed the seeds of their own demise. Though underfunded by the state, Black teachers nurtured the sense of confidence, intellectual tools, and political strength that made the civil rights movement possible.

Bullock's activism was not limited to his teaching and research. He testified for the inclusion of African American history in Texas history textbooks and served on the Texas advisory committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In the fifties, he wrote a regular column for the *Houston Informer*.

In 1969, Bullock became the first African American appointed to the faculty of arts and sciences at The University of Texas at Austin, where he established the school's first ethnic studies program. Bullock retired from UT in 1971 and returned home to Houston. He died in 1973.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Henry Allen Bullock. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. According to Henry Allen Bullock, how did segregated schools "sow the seeds of their own demise"?
2. Identify three different activities Bullock did during his career that supported education.

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. **Taking a Position.** Why is it important for diverse histories to be represented in school textbooks?