



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 Sam Houston. Then, answer questions about it.

Sam Houston 1793–1863

In 1861, as the Civil War loomed, Texas Governor Sam Houston watched his constituents vote to secede from the Union. Houston could not believe that two decades of his work was about to unravel. His loyalty to the Union was genuine, and he was not willing to switch his allegiance to the Confederacy. Houston was forced out of office, but not before saying, “I love Texas too well to bring civil strife and bloodshed upon her.”

Houston had never refused a fight in his life. But he understood how disastrous the Civil War would ultimately be.

Sam Houston had arrived in Texas, almost thirty years prior, in 1832. The former congressman and governor of Tennessee’s new cause was Texas independence. He led the army that defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto—an achievement that secured his place in Texas history.

Sam Houston’s next challenge was convincing Texans to join the United States. It took almost a decade, but annexation occurred in 1845.

Just fifteen years later, the Civil War was about to tear his country apart. At sixty-seven, Sam Houston’s fighting days were behind him, and he retired to a quiet life in Huntsville. Two years later in 1863, as the Civil War was raging, Sam Houston died.

His final home still stands on the grounds of Sam Houston State University and is visited annually by thousands who pay tribute to this iconic Texan.

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

1. Why did Sam Houston leave office in 1861?
2. What was Sam Houston’s role in the cause of Texas independence?

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.** Have you ever had to make a choice between two beliefs that were important to you? What helped you to make the decision?