



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 Jovita Idár. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jovita Idár 1885–1946

Journalist and activist Jovita Idár was born in Laredo in 1885. As a young woman, she abandoned a teaching career to write for her father's weekly newspaper, *La Crónica*. In her articles, Idár denounced the dismal social, educational, and economic conditions of Texas Mexicans.

In 1911, when the First Mexican Congress met to address civil rights in Texas, Idár and other women were active participants. Idár became the first president of the League of Mexican Women, an offshoot of the Congress. She mobilized League efforts to provide free education to poor children.

These efforts set the tone for the rest of Idár's life and work. As an educated Tejana, she felt duty-bound to promote civil rights—including women's rights—and education. "Educate a woman," Idár often said, "and you educate a family."

During the Mexican Revolution, Idár crossed the border to serve as a nurse in the White Cross, a group similar to the American Red Cross. When she returned to Laredo, she continued to write newspaper articles condemning racial prejudice and acts of violence against Mexicans and Tejanos.

In 1917, Idár and her husband moved north to San Antonio. She became active in politics, established a free kindergarten, and continued to write and promote social justice. Idár remained in San Antonio until her death in 1946.

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

1. What subjects did Jovita Idár cover as a journalist for *La Crónica*?
2. Name three ways Idár continued her life's work of promoting Mexican and Tejano rights after moving to San Antonio.

**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.** What do you think Idár meant when she said "Educate a woman and you educate a family"?