



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 Antonio Margil de Jesús. Then, answer questions about it.

### Antonio Margil de Jesús 1657–1726

Spanish Texas was more than a provincial frontier. It was part of a larger Atlantic world, and Franciscan missionary Antonio Margil de Jesús embodies its breadth. Father Margil sailed from Spain to evangelize from Costa Rica to East Texas, his achievements resonating through Mexico City, Madrid, Paris, and Rome.

Born in Valencia, Spain, in 1657, Margil joined the Franciscan order as a teenager and in 1683 ventured to Mexico to spread the Catholic faith among the New World's native peoples. He sought the most challenging assignments, traveling barefoot over rough terrain through the Yucatan, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

In the early 1700s, Margil returned to central Mexico to direct missionary colleges in Queretaro and Zacatecas. He then headed north to Texas, where French incursions had renewed Spanish imperial interest. In 1716, Margil joined an expedition to establish missions among the Caddos and other native groups in East Texas. Of the expedition's six mission settlements, Margil founded those at Nacogdoches and Los Adaes.

In 1719, after the French attacked the East Texas missions, the Spaniards retreated to San Antonio. There, Margil founded Mission San José, called the "Queen" of the missions and the best-preserved Texas mission complex today.

Margil died in Mexico City in 1726, advocating for the troubled East Texas missions to the end. The Vatican continues to consider Margil as a candidate for sainthood.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Antonio Margil de Jesús. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What brought Antonio Margil de Jesús to Mexico?
2. Name three missions that Margil helped to found.

**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.** The episode notes that Margil frequently took the most challenging assignments. What parts of the things that he did would be most challenging for you?