



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 Marion Koogler McNay. Then, answer questions about it.

### Marion Koogler McNay 1883–1950

Once described as the “Gertrude Stein of San Antonio,” Marion Koogler McNay created the first museum of modern art in Texas.

McNay was born in 1883 and raised in Kansas, the only child of parents who made their fortune in oil. She showed an early passion for painting and attended the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1926, she moved to San Antonio and began construction of an ornate Spanish Colonial Revival home. She soon began buying art, amassing a rich collection of European and American pieces. She especially loved the art of the American Southwest.

McNay also invested in artists. In 1942, she offered use of her home to the San Antonio Art Institute, preventing the school’s closure. Her friend, the sculptor Charles Umlauf, said that she “always had the sympathy of the artist at hand because she herself was an artist.”

McNay died in 1950. She bequeathed her expansive residence, its twenty-three acres, and more than seven hundred works of art to the San Antonio community. She said her goal was to make her museum “a place of beauty with the comforts and warmth of a home.”

Today, the McNay Art Museum is one of the state’s cultural treasures, boasting a remarkable collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century works of art, including works by Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Georgia O’Keefe, and other European and American masters.

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

1. What types of art did Marion Koogler McNay collect?
2. How did McNay help prevent the closure of the San Antonio Art Institute?

**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.** What type of art would you collect if you could establish a museum? Why? Explain.