



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 Jose Antonio Navarro. Then, answer questions about it.

Jose Antonio Navarro 1795–1871

Tejano leader José Antonio Navarro lived under five of the six flags of Texas.

Born in 1795 to a prominent family in San Antonio, Navarro grew up along with his city. In the 1820s, he championed Stephen F. Austin's colonization efforts. At the time, both Anglo American immigrants and Tejano residents wanted increased settlement in Texas for economic development and frontier defense. When trouble arose between the Texans and Mexico's government, Navarro was one of two Tejanos to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836.

Many of the newly arrived Anglo settlers discriminated against Texans of Mexican origin. Some Tejano veterans of the Revolution moved away. But Navarro stayed, defending Tejano rights.

In 1841, Navarro joined the ill-conceived Santa Fe Expedition, which attempted to join New Mexico to Texas. He was imprisoned in Mexico for nearly four years as a result, but returned to support Texas's annexation to the United States. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1845, Navarro helped defeat a proposal that would deprive Tejanos of the right to vote.

The secession crisis again tested Navarro's politics. He was torn between unionist sentiment and states' rights principles, but survived the crisis with his commitment to Texas intact.

After the Civil War, Navarro retired from public life and became a respected elder statesman. He died in 1871.

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

1. Why did many Tejano residents, including José Antonio Navarro, support Anglo American settlement in Texas?
2. How did Navarro champion Tejano rights as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1845?

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.** If you were Navarro, would you have stayed in Texas following the Revolution? Explain.