



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 Chester William Nimitz. Then, answer questions about it.

Chester William Nimitz 1885–1966

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 left the U.S. Navy stunned. With American ships still smoldering in the water, Navy Secretary Frank Knox turned to a Texan, Chester Nimitz, to restore confidence in the Pacific Fleet.

Nimitz was born in Fredericksburg in 1885. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905 and then served in several command and staff positions, including the new Atlantic submarine fleet.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, U.S. and Australian forces thwarted Japanese advances and Admiral Nimitz rolled across the Pacific, hopping from island to island, including Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Once bombing attacks began on the Japanese homeland in 1945, a U. S. victory was inevitable.

Despite his success, Nimitz was a modest man. Journalist Robert Sherrod said Nimitz "conceived of war as something to be accomplished as efficiently and smoothly as possible, without too much fanfare." When the war in the Pacific was finally won, charismatic Army General Douglas MacArthur got the glory. Nimitz never wanted it. He said, "Being a part of the Navy is honorable and soul-satisfying work," and that was enough for him.

After Nimitz's death in 1966, his grandfather's hotel in Fredericksburg became the Admiral Nimitz Museum, now part of the larger National Museum of the Pacific War. There, in a small, landlocked Texas town, visitors can learn more about one of the U.S. Navy's greatest commanders.

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

1. What event happened before Admiral Nimitz was chosen to lead the Pacific Fleet?
2. What was Admiral Nimitz's approach to war?

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.** Do you think Admiral Nimitz's leadership style was effective? Why or why not?