



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 Quanah Parker. Then, answer questions about it.

Quanah Parker 1845–1911

Born about 1845, Comanche leader Quanah Parker lived two vastly different lives: the first as a warrior among the Plains Indians of Texas, and the second as a pragmatic leader who sought a place for his people in a rapidly changing America.

Parker's birth was a direct result of the conflict between Native Americans and white settlers. His mother, Cynthia Parker, was captured by the Comanche as a child and later married his father, Chief Peta Nocona.

In 1860, after Parker's father was killed by Texas Rangers, young Quanah moved west, where he joined the Quahada Comanche. Parker proved an able leader, fighting with the Quahada against the spread of white settlement.

But in 1875, following the U.S. Army's relentless Red River campaign, Parker and the Quahada ultimately surrendered and moved to reservation lands in Oklahoma.

In his new life, Parker quickly established himself as a successful rancher and investor. The government officials he had once fought soon recognized him as the leader of the remaining Comanche tribes.

Parker encouraged Comanche youth to learn the ways of white culture, yet he never assimilated entirely. He remained a member of the Native American Church, and had a total of seven wives.

The respect Parker earned is evident in the Panhandle town of Quanah. There, by the Hardeman County Courthouse, stands a monument to the town's namesake: Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanche.

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

1. What professions did Quanah Parker undertake after moving to reservation lands in Oklahoma?
2. What event led Parker to move west and fight against the spread of white settlement?

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.** After being forced onto reservation lands in Oklahoma, how did Parker retain aspects of his Comanche culture?