



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 Selena Quintanilla Pérez. Then, answer questions about it.

Selena Quintanilla Pérez 1971–1995

Selena Quintanilla Pérez is one of the most recognizable Texans in modern history. The Grammy-winning singer's cumbia rhythms and magnetic stage presence brought Tejano music to unprecedented levels of success.

Born in 1971, Selena grew up surrounded by music, performing with her siblings at the family restaurant in Lake Jackson. In the early 1980s, the family moved to Corpus Christi, and Selena y los Dinos released their first single. By eighteen, Selena had a major record deal and the first of many Tejano Music Awards.

Already a hometown legend in Corpus, Selena's star rose quickly in the Latin music market with hits like "Como la Flor" and "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom." The queen of Tejano music was poised to break into the English-language market.

In February 1995, Selena broke attendance records with a spectacular concert at the Houston Astrodome. This would be her swan song; the following month, she was shockingly murdered by Yolanda Saldivar, the former president of Selena's fan club, in a business dispute. The loss sparked an outpouring of grief across the Southwest and anticipation for her final album, *Dreaming of You*.

Selena's legacy has only grown in the years since and rightly so. She was a rare artist who could be both relatable and ethereal, silly and serious, proud of her South Texas roots while sharing her gift with the world.

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

1. Where did Selena Quintanilla Pérez first begin performing?
2. What was the name of her final album?

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 Selena's fame only grew following her tragic death. What impact do you think she might have continued to have on Tejano music if she had not been murdered?